

# Christian Courier

A REFORMED WEEKLY, formerly known as Calvinist Contact

FEBRUARY 12, 1993/48th year of publication/No. 2341

## Thinkbit

*"The greatest crisis facing us today is not what we consume but what we throw away."*

Said by Canadian international columnist Gwynne Dyer

## Theatre must deal with mixed reactions at Christian colleges



COURTESY DORDT COLLEGE

The cast of Dordt College's latest play received both praise and criticism.

### Bill Fledderus

ANCASTER, Ont. — Choosing and staging a play at a Christian liberal arts college is a tricky business, say theatre arts instructors. The job requires balancing a desire to explore a variety of plays with the often conservative theatrical sensibilities of the college's constituency.

It can mean facing hostile ac-

cusations from disappointed audience members who have a different idea of what theatre at a Christian institution should accomplish.

Every institution which mounts plays has its own goals, explains Ray Louter, a professor of theatre arts at Redeemer College in Ancaster, Ont. "Our particular mandate as a university theatre arts department is to make it possible for students to experience the breadth of theatre."

### Wide exposure

Simon Du Toit, a theatre professor at Dordt College in Sioux Center, Iowa, agrees. "It's our job to develop the students entrusted to us, to make them as capable as possible to pursue their chosen career. That makes it necessary for us to expose them to as wide a

See THEATRE -- p. 2...

## International columnist sees world turning democratic

*'For 40 years we barked up the wrong tree'*

### Bert Witvoet

ST. CATHARINES, Ont. — According to Gwynne Dyer, the world is in a much better state politically than it has been for a long time. In spite of the cynicism that his journalism requires, he is "conditionally optimistic" about the state of the world.

Dyer, a Canadian columnist who is published in 150 papers in 30 countries, recently spoke to an audience of 500 at Brock University.

If you go by the media, the world is as troubled as it has always been, said Dyer. "But the media can deal with only one war, one political crisis, one human tragedy at a time," he pointed out. "That's not a conspiracy; that's the limitation of the media."

### Big change afoot

Dyer mentioned 11 countries which were at war in 1987 and which are no longer at war today. The disputes were all mediated by the United Nations. He also mentioned that this is the first decade since 1940 that the world has not faced a nuclear winter and that military budgets are falling.

According to Dyer we are doing something right "and it behooves us to find out what it is we are doing right so we can do more of it."

"There is something under way in the world and it is quite large," said Dyer, who used to be a professor of history and developed an expertise in military matters. That 'something' under way he referred to as "a global process of non-violent democratization."

"All it takes is for the Chinese to finish what they started in 1989 and 90 percent of the world lives in a democracy," said Dyer. "There is still a lot of corruption, inequality and poverty in many countries, but a system of legal

equality is being established. Hierarchies are overthrown with remarkably little violence."

### Literacy essential

Dyer traces the recent spreading of democracy to the influence of the electronic mass media. He pointed out that until 1776, the year of the American Revolution, there had never been a democratic society that had a population of over a million.

"Not until the invention of the printing press could a large society talk things over," said Dyer. And according to him, not until a mass society has reached a literacy rate of over 50 percent can a democracy work.

The fact that the process of

For 40 years political leaders in the West have been barking up the wrong tree, according to Dyer. "The threat of nuclear war and communism took over our attention. The real question today is: How can we fit 10 billion people who expect high levels of consumption on a finite planet?"

When Dyer was born (in the 1930s), there were two billion people on earth. If he lives "as long as my life insurance company wants me to," there will be eight billion people when he dies, Dyer predicted. "Before the population curve drops there will be at least 10 billion. Of these, 60 to 80 percent will have achieved industrial levels of consumption." Dyer called that a formula for disaster.

"You can't tell the rest of



C.C. FILES

Democratization in Red Square, Moscow.

democratization has been accelerated in recent years Dyer traces to the spread of television. Television has made people literate without teaching them how to read, he said.

the world they can't have what we have," said Dyer. "They can see on television how we live. They won't settle for less. We're not getting out of this

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## News

# Theatre better at exploring than at preaching

... continued from p. 1

variety of types of theatre as possible," from tragic to comic, from contemporary to classic. Du Toit is a Canadian who has performed at the esteemed Stratford Festival in Ontario.

Christian academic theatre should also aim to minister to its audiences, to offer uplifting work which challenges the audience to grow and which also addresses the needs and problems of the community and the world, explains Du Toit.

The problems come when people don't like the way in which they have been "challenged to grow."

## Trust required

Lloyd Arnett, an assistant drama professor at Trinity Western University in Langley, B.C., agrees: "Growing together requires establishing a sense of trust. Over time, a theatre department can try to stretch its audience and broaden its taste, but only by incremental steps."

Drama as a medium is much better at exploring the realm of human experience and emotion than it is at preaching, says Ar-

nett. He suggests that many people prefer preaching to exploring because receiving instruction, especially the kind which confirms us in our beliefs, is easier than being challenged to re-think our beliefs.

## Theatre as instruction

Louter says every few years he faces new people who assume theatre should be an instrument of instruction, a tool to further propagate the school's religious perspective.

"They argue that our productions should always be clear about pointing people to Christ" and that artistic elements such as music, narrative and voice are "redundant" in the face of the play's "spiritual content," explains Louter.

Drama which seeks to proselytize is only one kind of theatre, counters Louter, and repeatedly offering such productions goes against his department's mandate. His study of theatre has shown him that proselytization in art "in most cases leads to bad art," he adds.

Louter and Du Toit express frustration at the lack of good quality Christian plays. The

main exception to the rule, says Du Toit, is *Murder in the Cathedral* by T. S. Eliot, a play Dordt will mount in March.

## Different aims

Sarah Pasiciel, communications instructor at Providence College in Otterborne, Man., has less negative reactions to deal with because her school's tiny drama department produces safer, more overtly Christian plays. One of the college's most recent plays, *This I Believe*, was written by Pasiciel and her husband. It imagines what could have happened if all the great leaders of the Reformation had met in the same inn.

"We try to alternate between works which are more fun and ones which are more heavy," says Pasiciel. "We aim to meet the needs of our constituency and to educate it in the arts."

But even with the safe theatre choices made by Providence, Pasiciel says there will always be a few individuals who will express discontent. "As a director you have to come to terms with the fact that you can't please everyone all of the time."

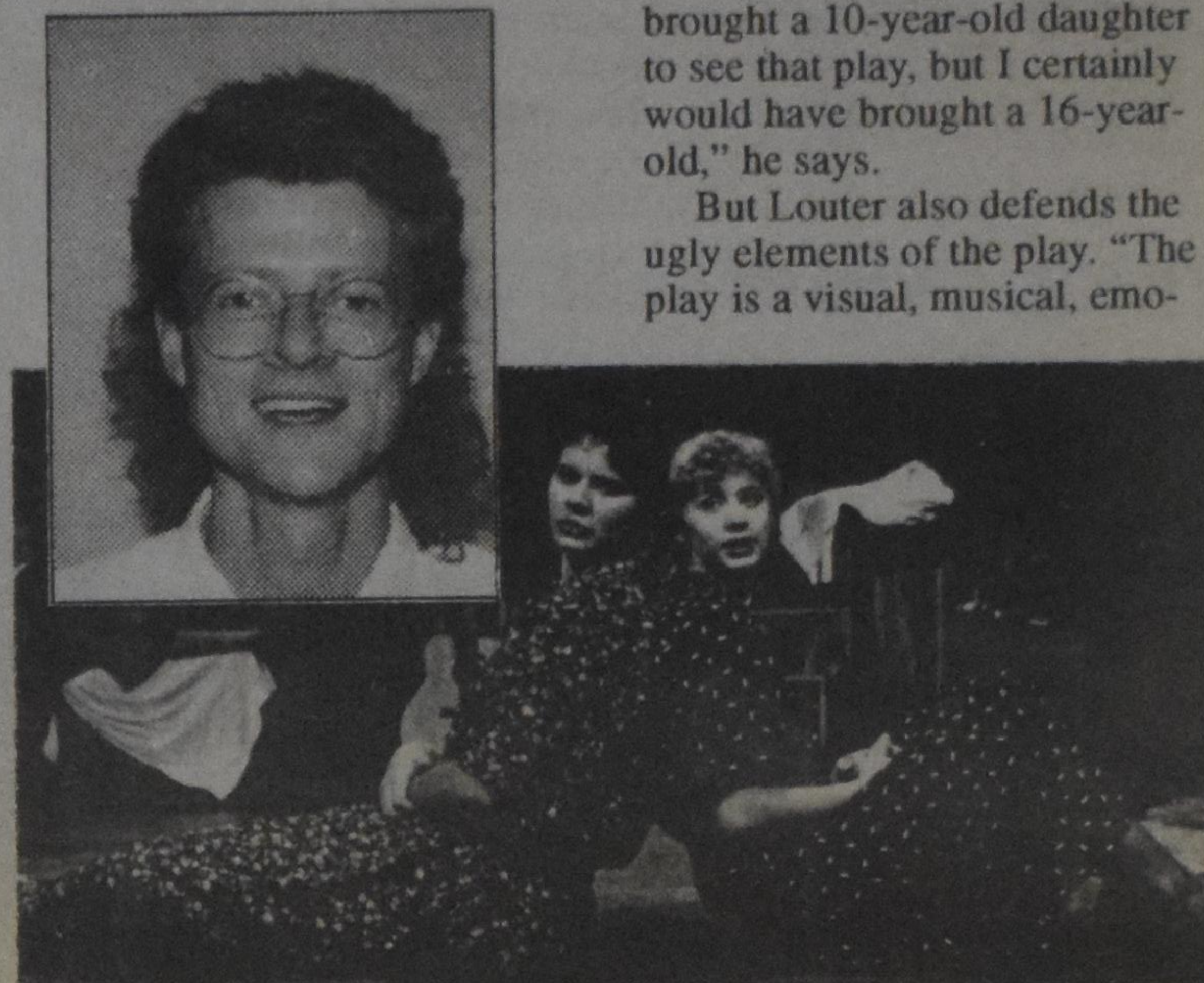
tices. The play was chosen, he says, in an attempt to help people "to discern the spirits of the age." The rationalism and humanism which were being pushed by the totalitarian regime are the reason for the absence of hope, he explains.

Du Toit was disappointed that the play was so misunderstood and criticized. He had

about or what kind of play it was," explains Louter. "That's unfortunate. It goes to show how important it is to communicate those essentials when you promote a play. In our advertisements we probably should have said, 'Hard-hitting monologues about life and death' or something like that."

"I probably would not have brought a 10-year-old daughter to see that play, but I certainly would have brought a 16-year-old," he says.

But Louter also defends the ugly elements of the play. "The play is a visual, musical, emo-



A scene from *Ten Lost Years*, a controversial play directed by Ray Louter, a theatre arts professor at Redeemer College.

been careful to give a series of public symposiums about the difficult elements of the play in advance of opening night. While preparing students and faculty, the symposiums apparently were not attended by many of the parents who came to see the production.

Du Toit also admits that because he moved to Sioux Center so recently he was not quite in touch with the taste and theatrical maturity of his audience.

Du Toit says he and his colleagues tried to deal with the criticism in a humble, loving way. But they found that most of the critics only wanted to express their own reactions and were not interested in listening to the other side.

## Ugly parts of life

Another play which recently received mixed reactions was Redeemer's 1991 production *Ten Lost Years*, a musical documentary about the Great Depression in Canada. In addition to facing protests that the work "did not point people to Christ," Louter says he also faced complaints about the play's references to the ugly aspects of the Depression era: people who froze to death, ate gopher pie or turned to rape and murder.

"Many people came without any idea of what the play was

tional portrait of an era in our history. The text is based on interviews with people who lived through that era," often using their exact words, he says.

## Learning from history

"A documentary does not express truthfulness by having all the characters become Christians at the end, but by the accuracy of its reporting," he says. "*Ten Lost Years* offered to help us learn about ourselves, our society, our history. It's ugly, but that history includes human suffering."

Some people who reacted negatively to the recounting of a rape experience missed the whole point, says Louter: the story was told because it encapsulated the powerlessness experienced by many employees—the woman didn't dare refuse her boss because she was desperate to keep her job. The story also showed how the Depression confused many people—the most important point of that character's speech was her expression that she was not sure if she was getting paid for her work or for sex, he says.

Louter argues that Christians are especially called to be active in putting on works which grapple with hidden problems in society and give a voice to the voiceless.

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## Comment

## Pressreview



Carl D. Tuyl

## Pressreview

While Calgary basked in the warmth of a chinook, it got so cold in Eastern Canada that even the breath of a fruit fly condensed into steam. Ottawa looked like Baffin Island, and people were lining up at travel agencies to buy trips to the sun. In spite of the cold, the cat is out of the bag: Monsieur wants the triple crown. Anytime now we can expect a bit of election lubrication and grease in the form of some green stuff applied to selected ridings.

★ ★ ★

We all have been moved to tears by the sight of famished children in Somalia, but recent news brought home to us that children are also suffering in our own country. Suicide among adolescents appears epidemic in the Innu village of

Davis Inlet.

★ ★ ★

Dalton Camp, a *Toronto Star* columnist, accuses the media of being asleep at the switch by not raising more wazoo about Bill C-91. This bill will make the trip to your friendly pharmacist a whole lot more expensive by adding years of drug patent protection.

★ ★ ★

Liberal Leader Jean Chrétien promises, if elected, to replace the GST. With what, one may ask? Ask, one may, but Mr. Chrétien has apparently not yet decided how he will reach into our pockets. He will set up a House of Commons committee to invent new and improved taxation. Is it true that Mr. Chrétien uses Oil of Olay? Just a question.

Frère Jacques, who wants to lead Quebec into independence, has set a date for his goal: June 24 (St. Jean Baptiste Day), 1995. He announced it with his usual Mona Lisa smirk.

★ ★ ★

Pension for MPs who were in office for six years starts at \$23,390. MP Svend Robinson (NDP) presented a private member's motion on December 8 to establish an independent commission to review salaries, pension and benefits for members of Parliament. The motion went the way of a falling star: it shone briefly and was never seen again.

★ ★ ★

Both the Liberals and Conservatives are courting Maj.-Gen. Lewis MacKenzie,

who became known worldwide during his tenure as commander of the U.N. forces in Sarajevo. Just what we need: a general in the Commons. The General has already had a bit of a spat with External Affairs Minister Barbara McDougall about the U.N.'s peacekeeping procedures. Miss McDougall, not the kind of person to be intimidated by a bunch of stars or stripes on someone's epaulettes, quickly wrote the U.N. that the General was way downwind of the External Affairs Department and the Canadian government.

★ ★ ★

Peace on earth, eh? A Canadian firm sells engines for South-African fighter jets; Mr. John Major just clinched the sale of 48 Tornado aircraft to Saudi Arabia; President Mitterrand is peddling French warplanes in the Middle East and Taiwan; the Russians are horse-trading their stuff to Syria and Iran; and there is little doubt that President Clinton will back Israeli requests for new military equipment. None of this beating of swords into ploughshares—not while there is money to be made. I guess the brisk business at the arms bazaar means the future is not yet bullet-proof.

★ ★ ★

There is one lawyer for every 350 Americans; in

the U.K. there is one for every 1,100 people; in Japan, the ratio is one for every 8,000. Interesting statistics, those. *The Guardian*, a very proper English newspaper, hints at something when it adds: "Now ask yourself: Which of the three countries has been the most economically successful over the last 50 years?"

★ ★ ★

Saudi Arabia's Ministry of the Interior has announced that a certain gentleman was decapitated in Riyadh for the crime of brewing some moonshine. I learned that fact from the *Algemeen Dagblad*, a Dutch newspaper mainly of the dog-bites-man variety. The paper also reports that a 23-year-old Columbian nun, Martha Lopez Prada, changed careers and became a policewoman. Without the *Algemeen Dagblad* the world would have been uninformed about Martha's turnaround. Imagine!

Public opinion can drive a person bonkers. A poll in the Wax Museum of Madame Tussaud in London showed that Margaret Thatcher came first in the "popular" category and third in the "hated" category. Figure that one out!

★ ★ ★

Christianity is not very kind to trees, is it? The combined number of published church bulletins, newsletters and religious magazines eats up an average size forest every week.

And I end with the following compliment, received by a minister as he shook hands at the door after a church service: "I am glad," a parishioner told him, "to find that Dan and Beer-sheba are places. I always thought they were man and wife like Sodom and Gomorrah."

*Carl Tuyl is a member of the Ontario Provincial Interfaith Committee on Chaplaincy and chaplaincy coordinator in Canada for the Christian Reformed Church. He lives in Kingston, Ont.*

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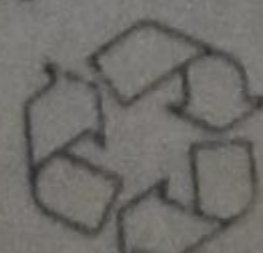
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## Editorial

# Will Dyer predictions make us responsible?

One thing was certain as I listened to columnist Gwynne Dyer talk about the state of the world: the man knows what he is talking about. I was part of an audience of 500 that had come to hear Dyer speak at Brock University in St. Catharines, Ont. (See news report on front page).

After the speech, someone challenged him on the notion that the rest of the world will want to follow Western patterns of consumption. Dyer had said that when the world population grows to 10 billion, as it is expected to, these 10 billion will want roughly the same standard of living as we in the West enjoy. And *that*, he had said, is a formula for disaster.

## Why should they imitate us?

The questioner was a student. That student's challenge was thoughtful and theoretically correct: people in other countries do not necessarily want to copy the West, do not necessarily want to buy a refrigerator, a microwave oven, a stereo set and a car.

Dyer smiled. "You're right," he said, "they don't necessarily want to do that, but I am here to tell you that they do. I've been in India and in other parts of the Third World, and I know that people watch us on television and want what we have."

Dyer's was the voice of experience over against the student's voice of theory — the voice of reality over the voice of idealism.

The student made one more valiant attempt to challenge Dyer: "Why would they want a car? They can't take it anywhere." Dyer laughed. "Why do you want a car in St. Catharines?" he shot back. The audience roared and the student's friends, somewhat embarrassed, motioned him to shut up.

## A convincing report

I must say that I was impressed with the scope of knowledge and analysis displayed in an almost casual way by Dyer. I have learned to respect the opinions he offers in his columns. Yet it came as a surprise to me that he is syndicated in over 150 papers in 30 different countries.

The idea that the rapid spread of democracy was made possible by literacy, at first gained through the print media and now through television, seems like a correct notion to me. I do not normally consider television an agent promoting literacy. The very word "literacy" points to letters, literature and reading. Television in that sense discourages literacy. But I know what Dyer means. He means that television informs people and allows them to interpret and discuss what the screen says is happening in other parts of the world.

## The future is unpredictable

Dyer did not spend much, if any, time lamenting that particular development, though he hinted that one might not like television "literacy." Dyer is not a prophet. He's an observer and an analyst of world events. If he does project into the future it is based on the assumption that people will continue to behave much as they have in the past.

If there is a problem with his kind of presentation it is that people may get the idea that reality is reality, so what's the point of challenging what's happening? Too great a dependence on past patterns leaves us vulnerable to unexpected turns of events. Dyer himself admitted that he, too, did not foresee the fall of the Berlin wall and the

collapse of communism in Eastern Europe.

One thing I missed in Dyer's presentation was an awareness that behind the world scene there is a contest of spirits going on. And that contest is focused on the human heart. That same contest makes some of us resist what seems inevitable and unstoppable.

## TV misses the complexity

Something in me, for example, rebels against the notion that television is becoming the agent for democracy. I have some sympathy for the student who was almost crying out, "It need not necessarily be so."

Many of us know that television cannot possibly do what literature can do. Oh yes, the images of famine and war are never more real in newspapers than they are on television. They certainly make a greater impact on most people than do editorials like these and columns by Gwynne Dyer.

But television, because it is so "real," may confuse us to the point that we no longer question that reality might be different from how it is portrayed and that it certainly is more complex. The print media are better suited to reflect the complexity of reality, even though they, too, suffer from selectivity and bias.

## Reasons for concern

If television becomes the foundation of modern democracies, then we are even more vulnerable to manipulation than we have been through the press. That thought alone makes me much less optimistic than Gwynne Dyer seems to be when he talks about the state of the world in the last decade of the 20th century.

If democracy based on literacy gained through watching commercialized television becomes the means by which we must avert the catastrophe of 10 billion people consuming at the rate that Canadians and Americans are consuming, then God help us.

As if we could do without God's help, anyway. Only he can move us to become better stewards of this planet. Dyer's presentation drove home the fact that we have to scale down our consumption and our garbage. Fortunately, the economic downturn has already begun that process. Thank you, Lord.

BW

## Christian Courier

formerly known as Calvinist Contact  
Founded in 1945

*An independent weekly that seeks the truth, care and rule of Jesus Christ as it*

- reports on significant happenings in the Christian community and the world,
- expresses opinions that are infused by Scripture and Spirit and rooted in a Reformed perspective,
- provides opportunities for contact and discussion for the Christian community.

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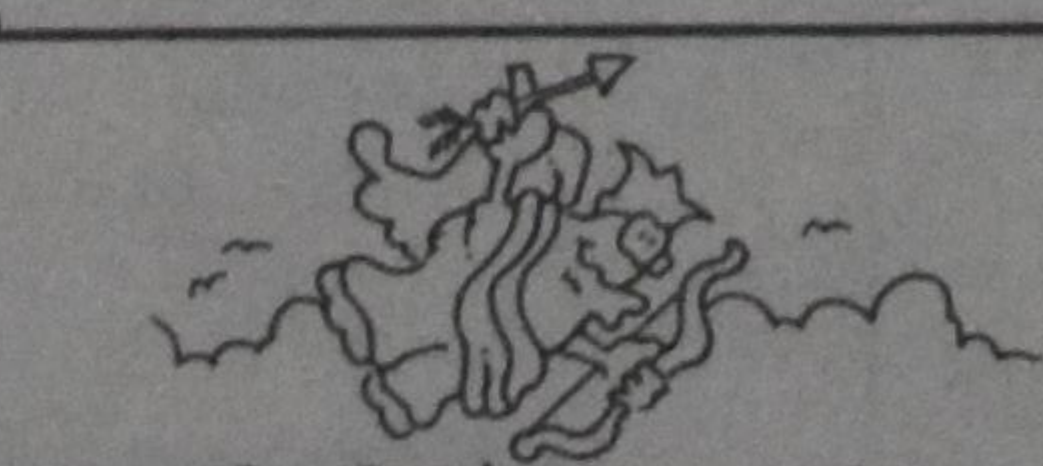
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## Pontius' Puddle



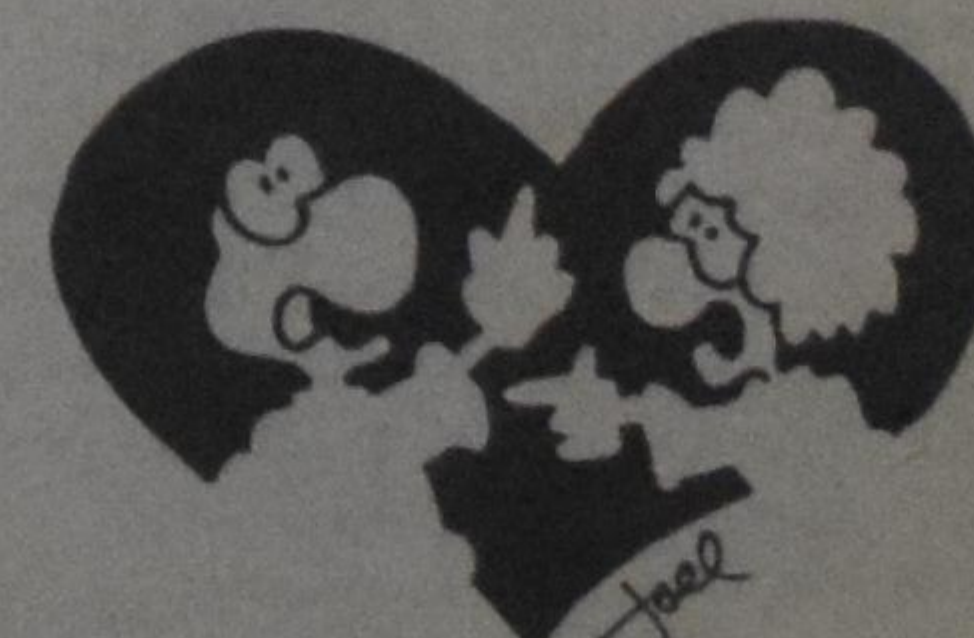
ON THE GARDEN GOD LOOKED DOWN  
AND SAID THAT "IT IS SWEET,"  
BUT SOMETHING MORE IS NEEDED  
FOR MY WORLD TO BE COMPLETE.

SO MALE AND FEMALE GOD CREATED,  
INFUSED US WITH ROMANTIC BLISS,  
AND WE MATED-- PROCREATED,  
BUT ALAS THINGS WENT AMISS!

FOR WE ALSO FOUGHT AND ARGUED  
ALONG OUR MATRIMONIAL COURSE.  
AND MANY A COUPLING ENDED  
IN THE BITTERNESS OF DIVORCE.

STILL, WE HONOR GOD'S BEQUEST  
WITH AN ANNUAL HOLIDAY.  
WE SEND OUT FRILLY VALENTINES  
AND CONCOCT SWEET THINGS TO SAY.

YET WE WONDER IF THE CELEBRATION OF  
THIS LOVE WITH WHICH WE'RE CURSED...



... OUGHT NOT BE MOVED  
FROM FEBRUARY 14,  
AND REASSIGNED  
TO APRIL FIRST!

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## Letters / Agriculture

## Cannot find himself in Bick's ethical world

It was with some distress that I read the letters by Clarence Bick and Rob Van Keulen in the Jan. 29 issue of C.C.

I realize that my response to these letters is based on fundamentally different premises about what it means to live within a capitalistic society. I also realize that Bick and Van Keulen's brand of conservatism, their celebration of laissez-faire economics, is unreconcilable with my own politics.

However, I feel that Bick's simplistic and open lauding of Adam Smith's economic vision and Van Keulen's naive indictment of "socialism" ought at least to be questioned in the same forum in which they were expressed.

For me, the question is not whether Canadians as a whole are over- or under-taxed. The issue I want to raise has to do with unquestioned assumptions: both Bick and Van Keulen defend with a truly religious zeal the "right" to personal wealth, a right that is not to be threatened by any appeal to a less individualistic concept.

### Was Christ advocating theft?

Van Keulen's claim that "taxation based on the redistribution of wealth" is "legitimized theft" requires substantially more defending than he is able to give. My own recollection of the Bible is that Christ summoned the rich young man to give up his wealth in order to attain salvation. Was Christ advocating some perverse new definition of "theft"?

But Van Keulen's charge that attempts to redistribute wealth in fact lead to "negligent behaviour" among the poor is not only a reprehensible statement based on ignorance of social

realities; it is in no uncertain terms bigoted slander.

Does Van Keulen really believe that the privileged and dominant classes need his defence against a somehow threatening, morally repugnant throng of dispossessed people?

### No true equality

While Van Keulen would also dismantle the health care system because it is not essential (one guesses that the same fate would be in store for welfare), Bick longs for a return to the mythical golden age in which the individual hoarding of wealth can go unquestioned.

Referring to the tale of Robin Hood, Bick claims that "the root cause of poverty in Nottingham was not that there were rich people." Rather, the problem was simply that there was a lack of equal opportunity.

Apparently Bick still believes that we are all born into the world equal, that there exists unlimited opportunity for anyone with a "will to wealth." I would simply ask that Bick visit any number of inner-city slums, Native reserves or single-parent households and then let's see if he still believes it.

I am taken aback to read such ingenuous claims that an individual's wealth, his or her over-accumulation, has no connection with the poverty of the underprivileged. This not only smacks of self-defence for those who are advantaged; it is also symptomatic of a supposed type of Christianity, of Christ-following, with which I cannot ethically align myself.

Peter W. Sinnema  
Toronto, Ont.

## C.C. remains a good friend and a contact

Our having gone from Calvinist Contacts to Christian Couriers gives excellent testimony to the fact that we are called to follow where The Lord may lead. "Onderling contact" (mutual contact) had its good reasons, I suppose, when we were trying to find our place in this land.

Wondrous things have happened since that time, things that discerning grandchildren will some day marvel about. And a good source of information for them will be the issues of C.C.

I chuckled about your insistence on using the same initials when it came to a name change. Does that stem from our Dutch tradition of naming children after forebears, which in Canada has often meant using the same initials as our forebears?

This and other subtle Dutch colourings make your publication an ever dearer friend to people like me — a 30-year-long reader of C.C.

May God continue to bless your labours at this time. May he make you "couriers" of the wonderful Good News

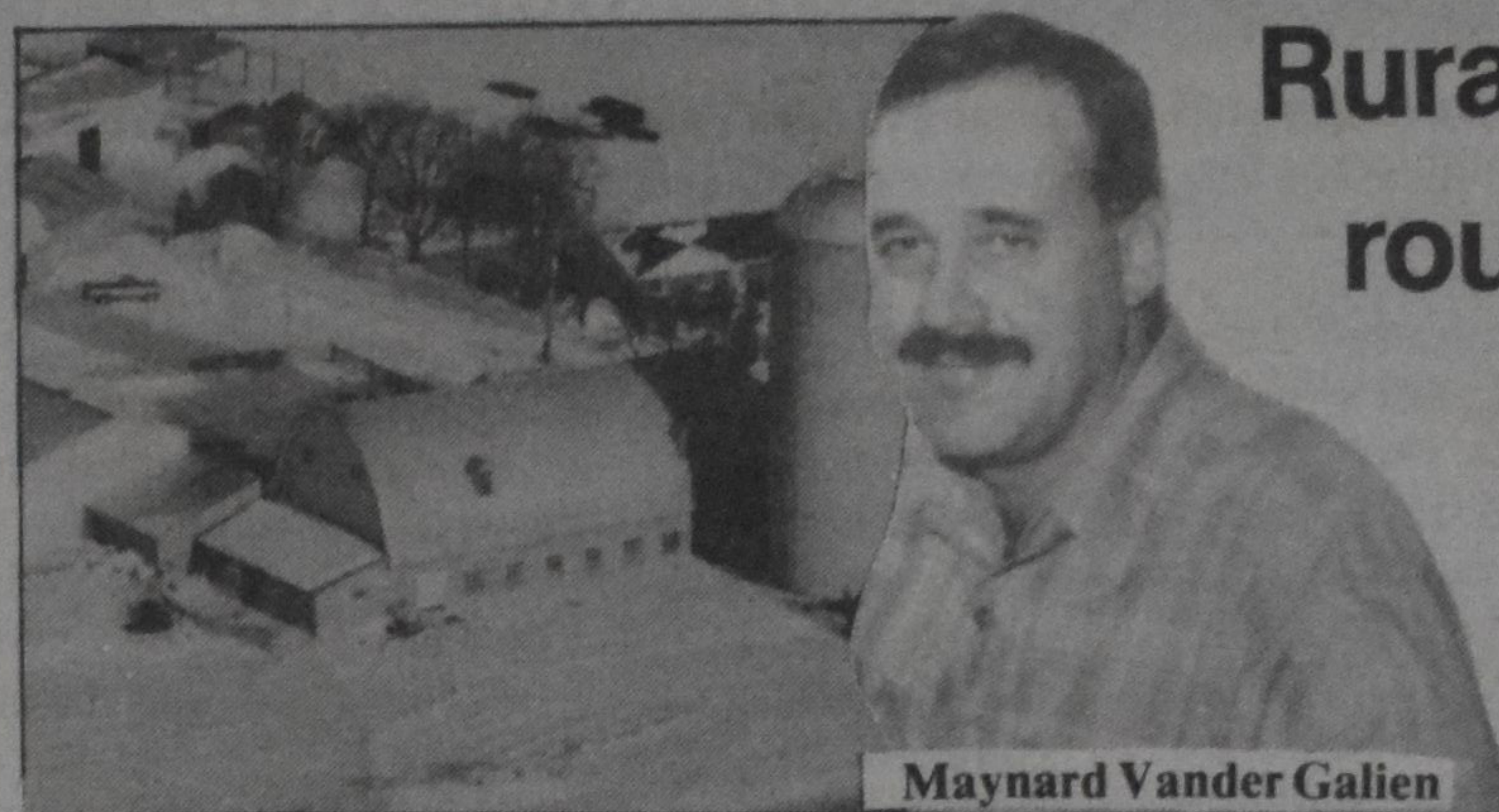
of Jesus Christ, coloured by a historic Reformation perspective.

Remember the time when it was still politically correct to sell odious consumer products with a line like: "walking a mile to get a ...?" (I remember! The product's name rhymed with "Tamil"). Well, all this came back to me when, in early January, 45 people from B.C.'s Bulkley Valley took a thousand-kilometre mid-winter bus trip to experience the special musical genius of Ken Medema (riding thousands of miles to get a Medema).

The trip, prepared and orchestrated by tour guides Johnny Bakker and Markus Bandstra, offered fellowship of the confined kind. But we thoroughly enjoyed it. Thank you, West Edmonton CRC, for making us feel welcome as we shared Medema's wonderful talent.

(How's that for a bit of "onderling contact" at a time when we are supposed to have outgrown it! — Ed.)

Henk Hoornenberg  
Smithers, B.C.



## Rural routes

Maynard Vander Galien

## 'Okay, I guess we'll get started'

Do you hate going to meetings? If you belong to an organization of some kind, you've probably been to a few meetings and found them boring, long and poorly organized. You're not alone. Most people shun meetings, especially annual meetings of organizations, for those reasons.

I attend numerous meetings, annual meetings and dinner banquets each year. February is the month when many annual meetings take place. It looks like I'll be attending about five annual meetings this month, including the annual congregational meeting of our church.

What bugs me the most about annual meetings is that they never start on time. Farm meetings are the worst. A meeting is called for 7:30 p.m. and most people saunter in around 7:40; then there is a long wait until the last stragglers stroll in just before 8 o'clock. You see, the meeting is scheduled for 7:30 so everyone can be there for 8 p.m.

At about 8:10 the chairperson usually looks at the clock and says, "Okay, I guess we'll get started"; or "I guess everyone's here now, so let's get started"; or "The sooner we start the sooner we're outa here."

I might sound a little like Andy Rooney of "60 Minutes," but why do some chairmen (-women) have to guess outloud what they are about to do? A meeting is scheduled to start at a certain time and it's 10, 20, 25 or maybe even 35 minutes after the meeting is supposed to start. Everybody is talking and the chairperson finally says, "I guess we'll get started now."

The proper procedure would be for the chairperson to rap once with a gavel or knock on the table and say: "The meeting will come to order."

Many people who are elected to lead a local organization, association or even a church committee have no skills at all in parliamentary procedures. But anyone who is chosen or elected to lead a group or organization should be instructed in how to run a meeting. Such a person should be given a booklet on proper parliamentary procedures.

### Follow these rules

A good leader should follow these important rules to make meetings go more smoothly. He or she:

1. Calls the meeting to order and keeps it to its order of business.
2. Handles the discussion in an orderly way; gives every member who wishes it a chance to speak; Tactfully keeps all speakers to rules of order and to the question; Should give pro and con speakers alternating opportunities to speak.
3. Does not enter into discussion.
4. States each motion before it is discussed and before it is voted on. Puts up the motion to vote and announces the outcome.
5. May assist in wording of motions if the maker requests assistance.
6. May vote when his or her vote would affect the outcome, or in any case when voting by ballot.
7. Should be familiar enough with parliamentary rules to inform assembly on proper procedure.
8. In speaking to the assembly, refers to him- or herself as "The Chair."

I know your leader isn't going to follow all the proper parliamentary procedures or always "go by the book." However, a good leader should see to it that a meeting doesn't drag on while little or nothing is being accomplished. And a meeting shouldn't last more than two hours. After 10 p.m. people start getting restless and want to leave. It's also hard to concentrate when the hour is late.

Maynard Vander Galien farms in the Ottawa Valley (Renfrew, Ont.) and writes weekly columns for county newspapers.



## Reflections / News

## Letters from Moscow 7

## Ray and Wilma Schraa

When we volunteered for this Christian Reformed World Missions assignment in Moscow we were promised that we would teach English as well as Christian values. However, after we arrived it was made clear that we were expected to teach English only, not Bible.

While that was a real disappointment, it soon became evident that God is not limited and is able to use other means, even the so-called "secular," to reach people.

For our own reading enjoyment we had, among other books and magazines, taken along a copy of the November 1992 issue of *Reader's Digest* which had arrived at our home just before we left. An article in that issue called "A Father's Instruction For Life" by H. Jackson Brown, Jr., has been a tremendous aid in teaching not only English, but also Christian values. Having the students read these words of counsel in class did open up wonderful opportunities. Especially these lines touched our lives: "Pray not for things, but for wisdom and courage"; "Give yourself a

year and read the Bible cover to cover;" and "Never underestimate the power of forgiveness." It became quiet in the room when we shared experiences from our own lives, answered questions and freely interacted. One officer took his little agenda book out of his uniform pocket and showed us the address of "Family life" in California and excitedly told us that they had sent him a Bible.

## Rare but precious Word

Igor, a young soldier, opened his briefcase and showed us his New Testament, the covers carefully wrapped with newspaper for protection.

A week later he brought an old yellowed-with-age Bible printed in 1912, five years before the Revolution. It had belonged to his grandmother and obviously had been read many times. The edges were frayed and here and there page corners were missing. Some verses had been underlined with pencil. What a treasure!

We talked about various parts of the Bible. When we asked if they knew what the different testaments were, most

of them shook their heads. However, Igor, in broken English and using body language as well, explained that in the Old Testament it was "eye for an eye," but (putting his hand first on one cheek, then on the other) he indicated that Jesus had said, "If someone strikes you on one cheek, turn to him the other also." It was his way of expressing that he knew the Bible and the difference between the two testaments. It was precious! An English/Russian New Testament given by us to Vladimir, another officer, became an instant treasure. It was a delight for us to inscribe the first page of it.

At a teacher's request we repeated these "lessons" with students in three other classes. What an exciting week of teaching and of sowing the Gospel seed just before Christmas, the feast of Jesus' birth!

*The Schraas are part of a team designated by Christian Reformed World Missions to teach English and Bible to Russian army officers.*

## Potato plant could produce plastic

## C.C. Staff

LANSING, Mich. — Imagine a potato plant which has been genetically altered to produce tubers filled not with starch but with plastic.

That's what scientists at Michigan State University want to do, and they say the plastic — polyhydroxybutyrate, or PHB — from such a potato would not only avoid the need to use so much oil (the chief ingredient of most of today's plastics), but also would be biodegradable.

According to a recent article in *Science*, the Michigan researchers already have altered the genes of another plant so that it produces the plastic in tiny quantities. Now they plan to refine the method to increase the quantities.

"This research opens the way for a possible new and profitable cash crop for farmers," says Christopher Somerville, the botanist who did much of the work. Plant-produced PHB could eventually be competitive with oil-derived plastic, he says.

## 'Never again \$15-an-hour wages'

... continued from p. 1  
without giving up something."

Dyer predicted that as a result of the North American Free Trade agreement between Mexico, the U.S. and Canada, there will be some leveling down of the Canadian and U.S. standards of living.

"We will never again see \$15-an-hour wages for unskilled labour," he said. But he predicted that Mexican wages would soon rise to the lower

Canadian and U.S. levels, creating the more level playing field that many union leaders have been asking for.

In Dyer's opinion, the politics of the 21st century will be to achieve rough parity between North and South. The realization of this goal would not have been achievable 20 years ago during Cold War times, he said, but in a democratic future it may be do-able. (See also editorial on p.4).

## Youth!

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## Cinema / Media

## Cinema summaries

Marian Van Til

## Lorenzo's Oil

Rated PG

Stars Susan Sarandon, Nick Nolte, Zack O'Malley Greenburg  
Directed by George Miller

*Lorenzo's Oil* may very well make you cry. If it does, it will be because of this film's gut-wrenching power, not because it sentimentally manipulates its audience. Not even Nick Nolte's bad Italian accent (which is more Slavic than Italian) is an impediment to the film's impact.

This is the true story of three remarkable people: Augusto and Michaela Odone (oh-DOH-nay) and their 14-year-old son, Lorenzo. Augusto, now 59, is an Italian-born economist recently retired from the World Bank; Michaela, 54, is a linguist and editor. But looming heavily over their careers has been the thoroughly consuming task of being parents to a boy diagnosed at age six with adrenoleukodystrophy (ALD), one of a family of eight rare nerve disorders. It is carried by women and passed on only to sons. In 1983 when the Odone's first confronted ALD it meant certain death, usually within months.

When Lorenzo was five years old he could speak three languages, Michaela has said in interviews. He was "razzle-dazzle — the most charming, devilish, thoughtful, fascinating con artist in my life." A year later he couldn't speak at all (though his mental faculties were still present). Nor could he walk. Nor see. He quickly became a total invalid.

But Augusto and Michaela would not let their only son slip away easily. Fueled by great love and armed with their knowledge of Latin and Greek, they set out to scout medical journals and research reports to try to understand and, they hoped, combat ALD. Through their efforts the first international symposium on ALD was held in 1984. They were also largely responsible for discovering ALD's cause and treatment.

## Keep it occupied

ALD provokes exceptionally high blood levels of very-long-chain saturated fatty acids (VLCFAs). Normally an enzyme keeps VLCFAs at specific levels and any excess is broken down by a second enzyme. But ALD boys lack that second enzyme so the VLCFAs accumulate and attack the myelin sheath (protective coating) around the nerves. The Odone's discovered that if you can keep the VLCFA-producing enzyme busy making harmless compounds it won't spend its time in the deadly over-production of VLCFAs. An extraction of rapeseed oil — "*Lorenzo's Oil*" — contains the kind of fats which will occupy the enzyme's time, arresting the disease.

The Odone's organized The Myelin Project, a research foundation of top scientists specializing in myelin sheath repair (call 1-800-8MYELIN for information). If re-myelination is possible, then not only the leukodystrophies but certain other nerve damage and related diseases like multiple sclerosis may eventually be reversible.

*Lorenzo's Oil* is both good drama and "propaganda," in the good sense — it wants to get the message out about the work being done on the leukodystrophies.

Any parent will have great empathy for the Odone's relentless, agonizing drive to save their son. Yet the film fairly presents the medical establishment as well, without resorting to a good-guys/bad-guys over-simplification. One aspect it downplays is the Odone's faith. They are presented as serious Catholics and it is implied that their faith was somehow important in their struggle. But one gets the idea that it may have played a greater role than the film acknowledges.

## 'Secular' success of gospel singer frowned on

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. (EP) — Gospel singer Tramaine Hawkins says the secular success of her 1986 single "Fall Down" hurt her standing in the Christian community. "Church people thought I had left the church," she told *Score* magazine. "I felt very bruised from the Christian market and audience. I didn't understand why there was so much criticism.... I really did it for ministry, and my commit-

ment to the Lord had not changed. In fact it got stronger during that time."

Hawkins said she now recognizes that she paved the way for today's urban gospel singers. "I listen to what the Winans and BeBe and CeCe are doing and I say, 'Hey! At least I was saying Jesus in the music.' Now they just say 'He.'"

She added, "I'm thankful to God. He's given me a tough upper lip."

## Many album buyers 'addicted to Jesus'?

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (EP) — The top-selling Christian contemporary album of 1992 was Carman's *Addicted to Jesus*. Carman is back in the studio now with David Foster, the

producer of Whitney Houston's "I Will Always Love You," working on a new single to go on his forthcoming greatest hits album, due in March.

## U.K.: Church bodies express 'grave concern' about Madonna's book

## Idol accused of irresponsible behaviour

LONDON (WER) — Leaders of two church bodies in the United Kingdom have expressed "grave concern" about the publication of Madonna's book *Sex*, because it depicts irresponsible behaviour in the light of the AIDS crisis and because they fear that children and youths who idolize Madonna may be influenced by the erotic content of the book.

"Very young children, perhaps nine or ten years old, who would not normally be influenced by pornography, may be exposed to it because it comes from one of their idols," says a letter to the director of public prosecutions signed by Clive Calver of the Evangelical Alliance UK and Lyndon Bowring of CARE.

The leaders say it is ironic that the book is being published at a time when the World Health Organization and governments around the world are urging young people to reassess their sexual behaviour because of the spread of sexually transmitted diseases.

Calver and Bowring say the book amounts to an "abuse" of the influence which Madonna

has over young people. "There is probably no one person who has greater influence over 14- to 24-year-olds, the age-group most vulnerable to Aids."

## Penthouse bows to anti-porn pressure

NEW YORK, N.Y. (EP) — *Penthouse* magazine is responding to market realities with toned-down covers. According to *Folio's Publishing News*, the move to celebrity covers is an effort to combat retailer resistance to sexually explicit material. "Since we've gone to celebrity covers, we're in 1,000 new outlets, and 6,600 stores have dropped their blinder boards," said *Penthouse* circulation director James Martise.

The efforts of anti-pornography crusaders have hurt *Penthouse*. Six years ago publisher Bob Guccione predicted that his company would hit \$1 billion in sales by 1992, but revenues have peaked at \$175 million. Newsstand sales have dropped from about four million to 1.25 million, and in 1991 the company laid off 120 of about 620 staffers.

Guccione blames the "porn-bashing" of the Reagan administration, in part, for his company's difficulties, and hopes that things will improve under Bill Clinton. "With the new administration, we're hopeful this will change and we'll resume our expansion of circulation and revenues," he said.

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## Church / Society

## Riots and terrorism do not slow down church growth in India

NEW DELHI, India (EP) — Terrorism, ethnic and communal tension and territorial disputes are some of the many troubles in New Delhi, India, where up to 50 percent of the population lives below the government defined poverty line. But Solomon Bodhan, secretary for North India and assistant secretary for revival and evangelism for the Evangelical Fellowship of India (EFI), is not discouraged by these challenges.

"I have this vision for North India and I am endeavouring to fulfil it with the help of the Lord," says Bodhan in a report published in *Aim*, EFI's official publication.

North India is the mostly Hindi speaking part of the country which includes the riot-prone state of Punjab.

Bodhan says that, despite the odds, the churches are growing in North India. Both the mainline denominations such as the Episcopal Church of North India and the Methodist Church and the more evangelical groups have experienced notable growth in the last few years.

Bodhan is excited by the work of national and some in-

ternational missionary groups that are reaching out to North India. "People have been converted, churches have been established in far-flung rural areas of North India," he says.

### 'People will see we're different'

The religious violence between Muslims and Hindus, which rocked India and neighbouring Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan in December, leaving at least 1,100 people dead in India, may turn out to be an opportunity for Christian witness, says Francis Sunderaraj, the general secretary of the Evangelical Fellowship of India.

"It is an opportunity for Christians to show the spirit of love and reconciliation," says Sunderaraj.

The Indian evangelical leader says that in the past Christians have opened up their churches to Hindus and Muslims fleeing violence and provided temporary relief aid. There have been cases in which Muslims and Hindus wore Christian crosses around their necks and pretended to be Christians just to escape violence.

Sunderaraj says violence

against Christians is unlikely because Christian believers neither provoke violence nor fight back when confronted. The Christian emphasis on peace and reconciliation — as opposed to Muslim and Hindu militancy — has left a deep impression on many of the uniqueness of the Christian faith.

From experience gained through dealing with a succession of religious riots in India's most recent history, Sunderaraj cautions against provocative theological statements about Christ when religious feeling in the country is still so strong. Instead, he urges Christians to focus on helping the victims of the violence without taking sides or making uncalculated statements themselves.

"People will see that we are different and that will give us the opportunity to tell them about the uniqueness of Christ," says Sunderaraj.

## Guatemalan refugees return with uncertain futures

GUATEMALA CITY, Guatemala (EP) — Approximately 2,500 Guatemalans have begun their journey home after a decade-long exile in refugee camps in Mexico. A caravan of 76 buses accompanied by international overseers made its way to the provincial capital of Huehuetenango, the first leg of a journey that will take them through Guatemala City and then to state-owned land known as Poligono 14 in the central highland of the Ixcán region. This is the first contingent of Guatemalans to return following recent repatriation accords.

A successful return of refugees may help in efforts to achieve a negotiated political settlement of the 30-year conflict that has plagued Guatemala. Letters from members of Congress to Guatemalan President Jorge Serrano urging that the government ensure the safe return and reintegration of the refugees have been requested.

Church World Service has issued a request that Americans contact their national legislators to draw their attention to the plight of the refugees and to ask them to write to President Serrano asking that the October peace accords be respected.

## Montreal seaway ministry appoints new director

Henry Wildeboer

MONTREAL — The board of the Christian Reformed seaway ministry in Montreal has announced the appointment of Rev. Michael Winnowski as the new chaplain (director) for the harbour ministry in the Port of Montreal. He replaces the Rev. Hans Uittenbosch who now works for Cities of Christ Worldwide, a similar but separate ministry to the Montreal work.

Winnowski, 36, graduated from Calvin Theological Seminary in Grand Rapids, Mich., in 1989 and is currently the pastor of the Calvary Christian

Reformed Church in Vermilion, South Dakota. He spent a one-year internship at the Montreal Seafarers' Centre in 1988 and became acquainted with many aspects of the ministry. Winnowski speaks four languages and is able to carry basic greetings in a number of others.

His wife, Elizabeth DeVries Winnowski, teaches English as a second language. The family, completed by two-year-old Lucy, plans to move to Montreal in May. In the Montreal ministry Winnowski will be assisted by Chaplain Barend Biesheuvel, who is also

the centre's administrator. A host couple, a seminary intern and an administrative assistant complete the staff.

## Students invited to seminar on Canada's international role

WINNIPEG (MCC) — A seminar on Canada's role in the world, sponsored by the Mennonite Central Committee, is offering travel subsidies to students who would like to attend. The seminar, to be held Feb. 25-27, will feature senior officials from the federal government and representatives from a number of non-governmental organizations.

Topics will include peacekeeping, refugees, trading patterns and foreign relations. All interested people — both students and others — are invited to call (204) 261-6381 or (613) 238-7224 for more information.

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## Talking to God easier, but no longer free

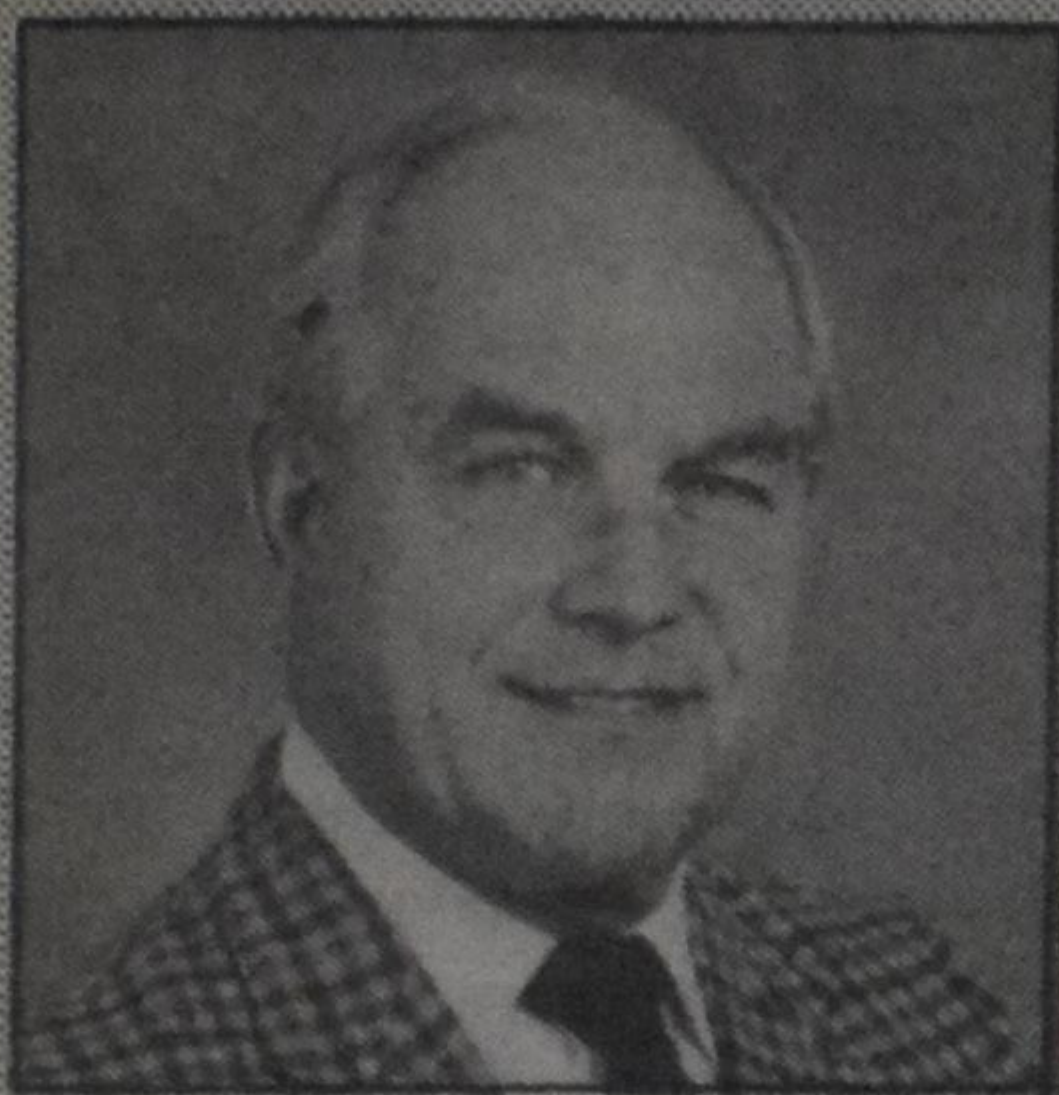
Bill Fledderus

JERUSALEM — Each year thousands of religious Jews make a pilgrimage to Israel and place a special prayer before God by writing it down and tucking it into the Wailing Wall. But thanks to the fax machine, they can now stay home. For a modest fee, an Israeli company is now offering to place faxed prayers in the

crevices of Judaism's holiest shrine, according to a story by the Associated Press. Some Jews believe that the ancient wall, whose cracks are cleaned regularly to allow for new prayers (the old ones are respectfully buried), is a remaining section of Herod's temple, and therefore a site to which God pays special attention.



## Church

CANADIAN  
CHURCH SCENE

Jacob Kuntz

## Graham in Moscow

*In the Mennonite Brethren Herald of Dec. 18 we found a moving article written by Dr. John Redekop. He had watched one of Billy Graham's crusade meetings in Moscow on T.V. The fact that this broadcast was possible in a country that had, until only a few years ago, "officially and totally dismissed the existence of God," inspired him to write a jubilant "Personal Opinion" under the title: "His truth is marching*

"My father, who grew up in the Dnieper River valley in Ukraine, wouldn't have believed it. He may be gazing down in disbelief right now. If my grandfather would have heard the reports from a friend, he might have suggested that the friend had had too many tablespoons of Alpenkrauter. (If you take too much, it can affect you that way, I'm told.)

"But truth is truth — 'pravda' my Russian friends call it. On Sunday, Nov. 6, 1992, I watched that international telecast of one of Billy Graham's October Moscow Crusade meetings. And the impeccably uniformed and predictably harmonious Russian Army Chorus and Band (formerly the Red Army Chorus) filled Moscow's Olympic Stadium with their masterful rendition of 'Battle Hymn of the Republic,' sung in English.

"Perhaps Gorbachev, who played a key role in making such events possible, smiled wryly from wherever he may have been watching. Perhaps he thought much about his godly mother. He may also have reflected on some of the Bible verses she taught him. (He can still quote certain passages with gusto and eloquence.)

"Stalin, from his grave, or lower, probably looked up in total disbelief, although by now he must be getting used to deal-

ing with disbelief. Lenin, from his massive mausoleum, or elsewhere, must still be in shock. Indeed, given the continuing collapse of his 'Great Revolution' and all of its vaunted accomplishments, he must be in a state of perpetual shock.

"The massive stadium was crowded with more than 50,000 hearers. Another 20,000 to 30,000 watched a big screen erected outside. Almost certainly this was by far the largest audience ever in Russia to attend a Christian gospel event.

"As the powerful Russian Army Chorus sang out, 'His truth is marching on. Glory, Glory, Hallelujah,' I got a big lump in my throat, and tears in my eyes.

"On Jan. 1, 1992, the once mighty U.S.S.R. collapsed — but not the church. On April 26, 1992, the Orthodox Easter, Kremlin church bells pealed in Red Square and across the country for the first time in 74 years. And Moscow mayor Gavril Popov and Russian vice-president Alexander Rutskoi attended cathedral services. 'Glory, Glory, Hallelujah!'

"And now the headlines read: 'Kremlin seeks help from Orthodox Church.' Thank you, Mr. Gorbachev. Thank you, Billy Graham. Thank you, God. 'Glory, Glory, Hallelujah. His truth is marching on!'

"Evangelist Luis Palau's hopes of staging a major revival crusade at Toronto's Skydome have been dashed by the failure of local churches to come up with the cash to finance the event.

"The Luis Palau Evangelistic Association of Oregon started planning the Toronto crusade two years ago, set up a local office a year ago, and started raising the \$1 million to cover the event. Organizers were hoping to attract 100,000 people to the event, scheduled for Jan. 6 to 10.

"But with less than a quarter of the required amount raised, and with a deficit of \$62,000, the crusade was cancelled early last month. Appeals to local churches have since wiped out the debt.

"The five-day Toronto event was to be one of the major crusades Palau hoped to conduct in 25 world cities before the year 2000. The Argentinean-born evangelist claims to have preached in person to nine million people in almost 60 countries and to millions of others worldwide via radio and television.

"In an interview with *The Star* earlier this year, Palau said that because of declining church membership and churchgoing, Toronto is in urgent need of spiritual revival.

"Mike Umlandt, public relations coordinator for the Palau organization, said the event was cancelled because expenses were mounting without the money there to pay for them. 'It was a matter of the local churches and individual Christians not contributing to the crusade,' he said. 'There's a recession and there is a limited number of dollars to go around.'

"Although the Palau crusade received little or no support from local mainstream Christian churches, Fellowship Baptist minister Tom Newell said there were 770 Metro-area churches on the crusade's mailing list.

"Newell, coordinator of the crusade's local office, said that

## Crusade cancelled

*Insufficient financial support led to the cancellation of a major crusade at Toronto's Skydome that was to be held in early January. The preacher was going to be the well-known evangelist Luis Palau. Even the Toronto Star reported the cancellation, which came as a real shock to the many people who had prayed and worked for it.*

while many churches enthusiastically backed Palau's event, it was a different matter when they were asked to support it financially."

*In Christian Week (Dec. 1, 1992) the editor suggests that the people who were involved with this event "should meet as soon as possible, perhaps*

*very early in the new year, call together as many of the people as possible who might have an interest, and begin to lay the groundwork for another attempt. They should be prepared to ask themselves tough questions, but not be frightened off by this experience."*

Church support for  
fishing industry

*In Newfoundland many people have lost their jobs because of all the troubles in the fishing industry. Diverse churches have united to provide support for the industry, according to the Anglican Journal of December 1992.*

"The mainline churches in Newfoundland have formed an interchurch coalition to support the province's fishing industry.

"The Newfoundland/Labrador Interchurch Coalition for Fishing Communities includes representation from the Anglican, Pentecostal, Roman Catholic and United Churches, as well as the Salvation Army.

"It will work on behalf of fishing communities to seek government action which will develop sustainable fisheries in Newfoundland.

"Experts say a sustainable fishing industry in Newfoundland could create and maintain up to 17,000 jobs.

"The government has imposed a moratorium on the Newfoundland fisheries, a move which may cost 20,000

people their livelihoods.

"The coalition is also working to de-politicize the current process for decisions about the fisheries. They would like to include more information from fishermen and fishing communities. As well, Fisheries Minister John Crosbie and coalition leaders have written to the European Parliament inviting members to visit Newfoundland. One result could be a meeting between Canadian and European leaders and coalition members."

(A pastoral letter prepared by the coalition was read in member congregations at the end of November)

*Jacob Kuntz is a retired Christian Reformed pastor living in Brampton, Ont.*

## Son not like his mother

BALTIMORE, Md. (EP) — William J. Murray, son of noted atheist Madalyn Murray O'Hair, plans to hold a revival rally in Baltimore on June 17, the 30th anniversary of his mother's Supreme Court victory which banished prayer from public schools. Murray's ministry, the William J. Murray Evangelistic Association, has rented the 13,000 seat Baltimore Arena for the event, which he is calling, "Miracle Day '93."



# Ice memories: longing for eternity

## Bert Witvoet

When I was a boy growing up in the Netherlands, my brothers, sisters and I would go skating on the canals behind our house the minute it was declared safe by those who had left their skate marks as proof, and the minute it was deemed proper by Calvinist ethics.

Of course, the first day the ice would be strong enough to hold skaters was invariably a Sunday, the only day of the week we were not allowed to skate. We may have disobeyed our parents once or twice, but we never thought of challenging their interpretation of the fourth commandment of the Law of Moses. The logic that skating was not resting was too hard to refute.

Nevertheless, the ice beckoned with powers of persuasion on the Sabbath equal to those of other days. Most of the time we only flirted with Sunday ice as we slid a few paces, counted the quarters and dimes formed by air pockets and tried to estimate by them how thick the ice was.

As soon as we were allowed to go on the ice, however, I would take my hand-me-down pair of Dutch skates, each with a flat wooden base and pointed stern screwed onto a metal blade and head for the canals behind our house. I would kneel down on the ice if no suitable sitting place was available, tie the string around my shoes and try to stand up without falling. My first moves were always halting; I would falter a bit, not having skated for a whole year. But soon I would feel more secure and my stride would lengthen. Before long I was sailing over the smooth dark surface of hardened rivers and canals, entering a world that was otherwise barred to me.

Because of the ice you were able to move past people's backyards with frozen laundry hanging from washlines and outhouses and urinals hugging the back fences. You could skate past isolated farmhouses and between wide open fields. You could travel from town to town; but on skates it was the

backside and perhaps more honest side of reality that greeted you.

If you were fortunate, you would come to a piece of ice that no one had ever skated on. You would look at the canvas ahead of you, dig in your blades and become an explorer-artist. You made cuts and scrapes while playing the ice as if it were a musical instrument. Sometimes, if you were lucky, the ice would make a cracking sound. The moment it did that, you knew in your heart of

senior citizens. I showed them a pair of Dutch skates, ancient like the ones I used to wear. They looked none too reliable anymore. The wood was cracked, the blades were rusty and the leather was brittle.

The skates reminded me of the words of the preacher in Ecclesiastes when he says that God has made everything beautiful in its time. Isn't that so? I asked the small group that had come to hear me. Isn't it wonderful that God makes ice in winter? Isn't it terrific that

would not be the same with sinking ice cubes sitting at the bottom of the glass, I continued. Since cold fluid sinks anyway, the drink would never cool off at the top.

I'm not sure how effective the talk was, but the nice thing about older Christians is that they make you feel appreciated.

I once asked a friend of mine who teaches high school physics why ice floats. He said that water molecules hang around in groups of three (one oxygen and two hydrogen

even without my signature on it, is a wonder to behold.

But ice melts, as I well remember from the morning I jumped across flocks on the moat in front of the mayor's villa. I and three or four others ended up in the water, watched by over a hundred cheering schoolmates and teachers, as well as by the mayor and his wife who were standing behind a picture window.

Good ice on canals in Holland lasts only a week or two, from what I remember. There is a limit to the beauty of things made by God. Even the skates I showed the residents of that senior citizens home were showing signs of losing their beauty. Maybe that's why the saying of the preacher about God making everything beautiful "in its time" is immediately followed by the cryptic statement: "He has placed eternity in their hearts."

We all long for a time when things of beauty will not come to an end. A time when you will have your friends forever and you never have to wave goodbye. A time when your body stays young and healthy. God has placed eternity in our hearts because the beauty, especially of the animate, is temporary.

Our longing for eternity makes us focus on the eternal one. Without a feeling of regret and loss, we would forget about God and rest contented in the imperfections of life on this earth.

As I imagine eternity, I see myself putting on a pair of skates with blades that never rust or get dull and wood that never cracks. And the ice will have lots of quarters and dimes in it. And I will skate from town to town, between everlasting fields laced by ribbons of smooth ice. I will wave to farmers and meet many friends along the way. And even Sunday won't stop me from cutting into new sheets of frozen water, with molecules standing around in groups of four just waiting for me to notice them.

God will have made everything beautiful for all time to come.



HOLLAND 1992

hearts that you had risen to new heights of significance. It was as if the universe itself acknowledged your presence.

★ ★ ★

That was then, when I was a boy in Holland. I'm not a boy anymore, though there are lots of times that I feel like a boy inside.

The other day I was giving a devotional talk to a group of

ice floats?

Suppose ice didn't float, I continued. The fish would be pressed down by the sinking ice. Try to play a hockey game on sinking ice — you would need a scuba outfit. The audience kindly nodded, though not a single one of them had any intention of taking up my challenge to play hockey, let alone on sinking ice.

Even a glass of ginger ale

molecules: H<sub>2</sub>O). But when water freezes an extra molecule joins each circle of three, expanding the substance. Because of the lesser density of ice, it floats on water, with one-tenth sticking above the water's surface.

★ ★ ★

You had better believe that God made everything beautiful in its time. A good sheet of ice,



# Dubrovnik:

## Putting the pieces together again.

**Sue Williams**

From the windows of the Argentina Hotel a few hundred metres away, the medieval town of Dubrovnik looks as beautiful as ever. It's only when you enter the centuries old gates of this city-monument and see the wooden battens covering the facades of its magnificent buildings, encasing the fountains, and protecting windows and sculpted stone bannisters, that you realize something is wrong.

And then you notice that the only customers in the cafes of the elegant main street, the Stradun, are soldiers, and that the shelves of the few shops still open are empty.

It's only when you peer through the cracks in the barricades across the doors of the city's splendid baroque, gothic and renaissance mansions that you realize that several of them have no "insides"; they are but empty shells, open to the sky and standing it seems through sheer force of habit alone.

### Extensive damage

A climb up onto the ramparts that stretch two kilometres around the old city reveals more clearly the extent of the destruction. Instead of the marvellous puzzle of orange, brown and yellow tiles that once existed, there are gaping holes and huge areas patched with black plastic. From there it is easy to see the punctures in the bell towers of the 15th century Franciscan monastery and the Loggia in the Town Hall complex.

"Seventy percent of the old city was damaged in the bombardments," explains Zvonimir Franic of the Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments in Dubrovnik. "Of the 824 houses inside the ramparts, some 500 have been hit."

It has been estimated that some 1,000 projectiles rained down upon the old city during the bombarding of November and December, 1991, and then again in May and June of 1992. While the fabulous collection of archives that trace Dubrovnik's past, its library and its paintings have been saved, much of its gracefully

sculpted stone, decorating buildings that have withstood the trials of several centuries, has been smashed."

### 'This is not garbage'

Dubrovnikers are proud people and fiercely jealous of their city, its beauty and the values it has been built on over 13 centuries. After the shelling had stopped they moved immediately to clear the mountains of rubble disfiguring the pedestrian-polished, flagstoned

streets, and scarring the graceful white stone of the remaining buildings.

Great ugly heaps of debris are now piled out of sight in back streets or near the port. "This is not garbage" says Franic "this is the cemetery of our city."

However, the clearing up and barring up, although restoring some semblance of order to the city, have not given it back its life. Most of its citizens have now returned, and schools

have now been reopened, but its economic lifeline — tourism — has been dealt a mortal blow.

### Struggling to survive

Of the 50-odd hotels the city boasted before the war, only the Argentina is still operational. And in any case, there haven't been any tourists in the city for two years.

Before hostilities broke out in 1990, at least 750,000 visitors arrived in Dubrovnik annually, spending a total of five million nights per year and an average of \$100 per head. This represented about 30 percent of Croatia's tourist industry.

Sixty-five percent of Dubrovnik's population of more than 60,000 was employed in tourism. These

people are now struggling to survive, many are still afraid, and almost all cannot believe what has happened.

### Feeding the hungry

Instead of tourists, the city, at the height of the conflict, became the destination for more than 30,000 refugees who fled their burning villages and sought shelter near the five-metre thick walls of the fortress-town for which freedom and the well-being of its community have always been fundamental.

Although the numbers are now down to 10,000, these people have lost everything — homes, jobs and in some cases, family. They are poor, and even if the city's many restaurants and bistros were open, could not afford to eat there. Most are being housed in those hotel rooms that remain habitable, and are surviving on humanitarian aid dished out by the International Red

Cross and Caritas — as are an increasing number of Dubrovnikers.

"At the moment we are feeding about 600 residents from the old city as well as the refugees, but there are many who go without," explains the head of the team of 20 volunteers distributing food from rooms in a now empty duty free shopping centre.

The situation is aggravated by spiralling prices. A loaf of white bread costs one dollar. The minimum salary, or basic welfare payment that most people are now receiving, is about \$35 a month. Meat and fresh vegetables have become luxury products.

Even the pigeons, once so characteristic of Dubrovnik's streets, have fled to avoid starvation and the city's hungry cats.

Despite its long and illustrious history, the city that could perhaps be considered one of the birthplaces of modern diplomacy and that has paid tribute to and flown the flags of many foreign powers has never been wilfully destroyed by attacking forces before. Its main enemy has always been earthquakes: the average for the past 320 years is one major quake every 28 years, the last being in 1979. Each time, though, the city has been lovingly and painstakingly restored.

### Tens of millions of dollars

The cost of rebuilding and restoring will run into the tens of millions of dollars. "Dubrovnik can generate a lot of this money, providing we can get tourism functioning again," says President of the Committee of Dubrovnik Pero Poljanic. But this means that the necessary infrastructure, such as transport facilities, hotels and restaurants, monuments and museums must also be repaired and reopened.

The status of World Heritage Site is given in recognition of the importance of a particular monument or location to the whole of humanity. UNESCO has been given the mandate of "protector" of these treasures, of which Dubrovnik is one of the finest.

(See also next page.)

*Sue Williams works for UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization). These articles, abbreviated for our purpose, first appeared in UNESCO Sources, December 1992, and is used with permission.*



UNESCO



# Dubrovnik: built for eternity

Sue Williams

The city is perched on a rocky promontory jutting into the Adriatic Sea, and overshadowed by the limestone mass of Mt. Srdj. Documentary evidence had always persuaded historians that Dubrovnik, (or Ragusa as it was transcribed in non-Slavic languages), was founded in the late sixth or early seventh centuries by Roman refugees, fleeing raiders who had attacked the neighbouring town of Epidaurus.

However, the earthquake that so severely damaged Dubrovnik in 1979 also turned the city's history upside down.

visionary urban planning that was laid down in the city's statutes as early as 1272 and has shaped its development ever since.

These regulations determined such details as the direction and width of streets, the precise size of land blocks for building, the dimensions of houses and how much space should surround them.

The rules were further refined over the 14th and 15th centuries, with wooden buildings and exterior staircases being banned, and a concerted effort made to harmonize individual homes with the ensemble and improve the life of

of the city, but for the well-being of its inhabitants. It is also an indicator, perhaps, of a city unafflicted by the problem of poverty.

Indeed, Dubrovnik has almost always enjoyed considerable wealth, due largely to its merchant navy which during the 16th century was one of the most powerful fleets in the Mediterranean, boasting 180 vessels and some 5,000 sailors. Salt, gold and lead from the mines of Bosnia and Serbia, fabrics and skins filled the holds of the ships which travelled beyond Gibraltar to the Atlantic and Indian Oceans. Their voyages and achievements are well recorded in the city's rich collection of archives which are housed in the sumptuous 16th century gothic-renaissance Sponza Palace.

This documentary treasure trove also contains the fascinating record of Dubrovnik's political history and the special brand of diplomacy practised by its ruling aristocracy that allowed the city to maintain almost complete autonomy for much of its existence.

## Political instability

Although rendered vulnerable by the earthquake the city's allies, including some of the greatest architects of the time such as Román masters Andrea Buffalino d'Urbino and Giulio Cerruti, rallied to rebuild Dubrovnik. But the city-republic did not fully recover politically, and, in the early 19th century opened its doors to the soldiers of Napoleon who placed it under French authority, signalling an end to its cherished freedom.

In 1815, the Congress of Vienna handed Dubrovnik over to the Austrians, under whose flag it remained until 1918, when it was incorporated into Yugoslavia. Since then, the city's fortunes have fluctuated, from economic and cultural decline back to prosperity, due largely to tourism up until the outbreak of war in 1990.

The Croatian flag now flies over the ramparts of the medieval city, which on Thursday, Oct. 29, 1992, after a year-long siege that threatened anew its very existence, celebrated its liberation, and a new start.

the community. A 12-kilometre-long aqueduct brought water from the surrounding mountains, drainage systems were installed, and granaries and water reservoirs ensured supplies in case of siege or drought.

A hospital was built in the 14th century, a quarantine centre kept contagious illnesses out and a hospice provided shelter and care for its orphans and aged. One of Europe's oldest pharmacies started up in Dubrovnik in 1317 and is still open today.

## A wealthy city

The careful planning shows concern not only for aesthetics

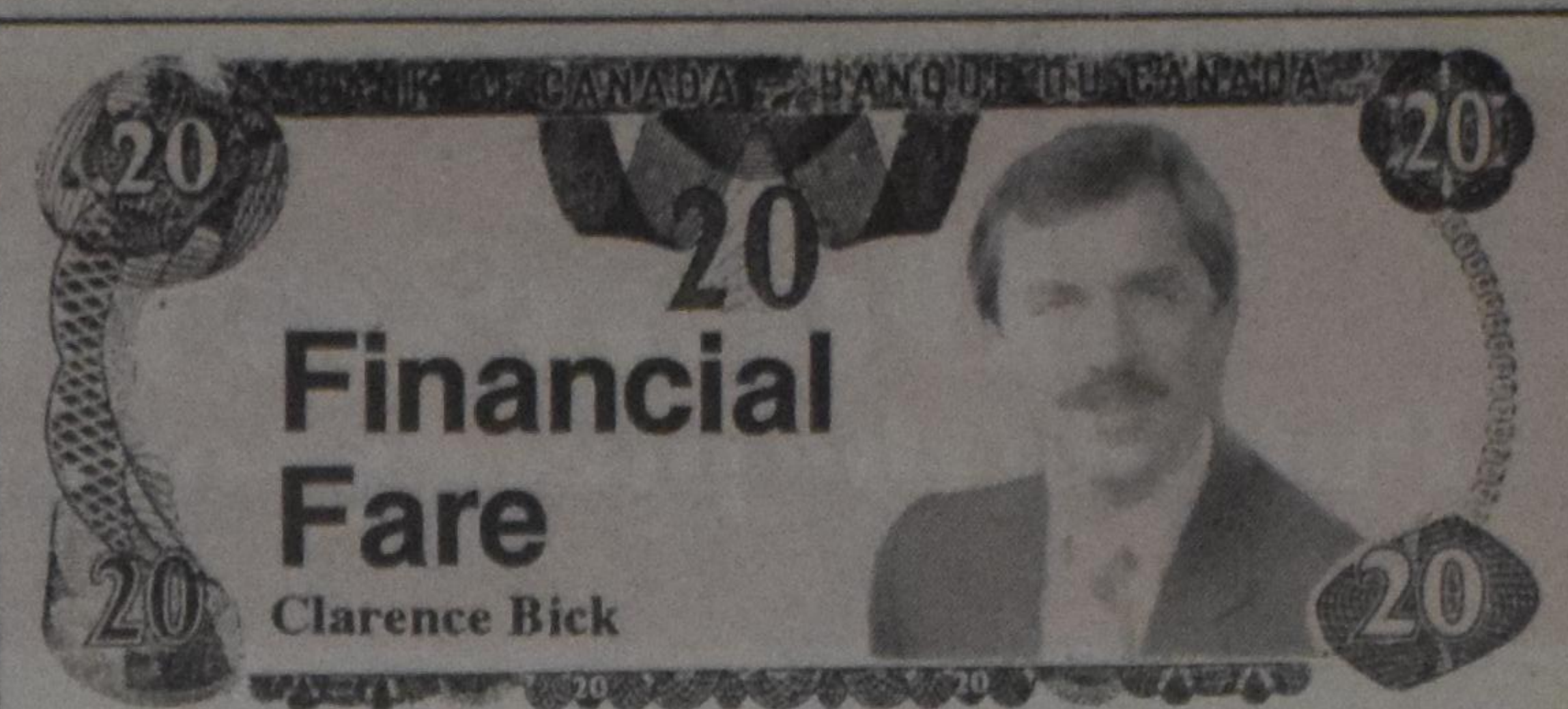


UNESCO

Under the renovated baroque cathedral were found not only the remnants of an older Romanesque building, but the foundations of a Byzantine basilica. The walls of a fortress dating from early Christian times were also uncovered, sending the historians back to square one.

## Visionary planning

However, if its origins are being reconsidered, Dubrovnik's trials and tribulations have been well documented, and their traces are still visible in the city's walls and monuments. Among its most remarkable features is the



## Make the rich pay?

In previous columns I have suggested that the level of taxes in this country is too high. Not all people agree with me. In their letter appearing on Jan. 1, 1993, representatives of Citizens for Public Justice criticized the notion of equating taxes with expropriation, and suggested that I advocated a view in which "taxes are an imposition on profits that rightly belong to business." This last sentence merits some discussion.

I find it fascinating that in discussions about the economy and taxes, some people or organizations take an "us versus them" stance. This is a viewpoint that suggests there can only be economic winners if there are losers. Therefore, if one advocates a limit to taxes or the reduction of taxes, those opposed suggest that this will help the rich business class at the expense of the working class, who are the beneficiaries of government programs.

I have never accepted that view. There are economies in this world where there is social and economic injustice because of laws favouring the rich over the poor. However, it is the North American and Western European capitalist economies that, over the long-run, have consistently had the most profitable businesses.

## Win-win?

Interestingly, it is in these economies that the working class has the best material standard of living in the world, and probably the highest level of justice and protection of individual rights. Therefore, the notion that businesses make and keep profits at the expense of individual citizens is easy to refute. I think our economy is one with a win-win relationship.

The strength of an economy and a tax base to pay for government programs ultimately comes from a high-wage economy which is only possible with high productivity. Productivity, in turn, is dependent on labour skills and capital. When these are combined, you have an economy like one found here in Canada, which has the second highest average income in the world.

Labour skills are dependent in large part on the education system, a government program supported by tax dollars. Conversely, there is a strong body of research that shows business spends more on capital when there are significant tax incentives (write-offs).

Critics often suggest that business should not get tax breaks for investment and should pay its fair share of tax. However, I think the concept of "business tax" is a fallacy. Tax is simply another cost added to the expense side of the ledger. In the long run, this cost must be passed on to the consumer. If the cost cannot be passed on, the business will either move out or shut down, both of which cost taxpayers their jobs. That is a lose-lose situation.

Before bemoaning the loss of tax revenue by business it is worth remembering that corporations are owned by individuals who must at some point pay tax like any other person. The media love to report on how a tiny percentage of taxpayers avoid tax. However, analysis shows that most of the time tax has been deferred, not avoided. Furthermore, the tax is usually deferred or avoided only because individuals are investing in ways advocated by the government to encourage specific economic activity.

In the end, my belief that taxes and government spending should be limited has absolutely nothing to do with the notion that private wealth has no outside obligations. It does have everything to do with the notion that there are always trade-offs in economics. If a dollar is paid in tax, it cannot be spent by the individual within the private sector.

Clarence Bick is a financial planner in Ancaster, Ont.



## Meditation/Books

## Celebrating life through struggle

*Radiant Life Forms* by Diana Brebner, Windsor, Ont.: Netherlandic press, 1990. Reviewed by Remkes Kooistra, Waterloo, Ont.

Diana entered the room packed with students. There she was, pale and frail. She kept her head covered, not — as she said humorously — be-

cause she was a poet, but because radiation treatment had taken so much of her hair away. She was weak and tired because of her illness, yet she read samples from her poetry for an hour.

We listened intently, with appreciation and admiration. Diana still writes poetry, every day, she told us. She was born

a daughter of Dutch immigrants who moved close to Montreal. She studied philosophy at the University of Ottawa where she now lives with her husband and two daughters.

I like her work very much. More than two years ago I listened to Brebner's poetry for the first time at a conference in Kingston, Ont.

For this short review I have chosen one poem, "Shiva," which is reproduced on this page.

To understand and appreciate the poem one must know that Shiva is one of the three main gods in Buddhism, a mischievous god. He is the dancing god with many arms; he is the power of destruction but also of reproduction. As such, he reminds us very much of Prov. 30: 15: "The leech has two daughters; 'Give, Give!' they cry." From the following verses it becomes clear that these two "daughters" are the cradle and the grave. Verse 16 states: "The grave and the barren womb never say, 'Enough.'"

### Struggle with death

In reading this poem consider Brebner's struggle with cancer. She is being attacked by Shiva, death. She looks at the power of destruction and sighs: What good comes from such great harm?

How many people have asked the same question in similar circumstances. We all know the feeling of the book of Ecclesiastes: "Meaningless! Meaningless!" says the Teacher. "Utterly meaningless. Everything is meaningless." "Wherever we look it seems that death wins. Death always swallows up life.

This feeling of frustration is eminently reflected in this poem. "Disaster strikes." "Arm after arm strikes down; the body ... crashes ...." The Destroyer, call him Shiva or Death, "tears me apart."

Yet this is not all that is to be said. Old terrors come back as gifts. And in being destroyed I am also remade. There is a dance; there is a sudden joy. There is a wedding, one may even think a recommitment to marriage. There is a new sense, a new experience, a re-discovery, even in making love. And it is not true that making love becomes more tender and more meaningful in times of misery, uncertainty, suffering,

## Shiva

*What good is it, that comes of a great harm?  
Disaster that strikes, all the old terrors,  
come back as gifts, in another life. Arm  
after arm strikes down; the body mirrors.*

*itself in water, and crashes. To Shiva,  
Death, Destroyer: you tear me apart, so  
tenderly, and I am remade. Heave a new body into existence, Shiva.  
Throw*

*it upon the world, as a wedding guest  
throws petals upon the bride. And the man  
who is married, what does he see?  
The best possible world may be his, and he can*

*take it, or leave it, making love.  
Shiva  
dancing, O Lord he can dance,  
old Shiva.*

Diana Brebner

recovery or even remission?

### Death overcome

And so the poem ends with an exclamation of thanksgiving: "O Lord, he can dance, old Shiva." Does this not remind you of Paul's victory song in 1

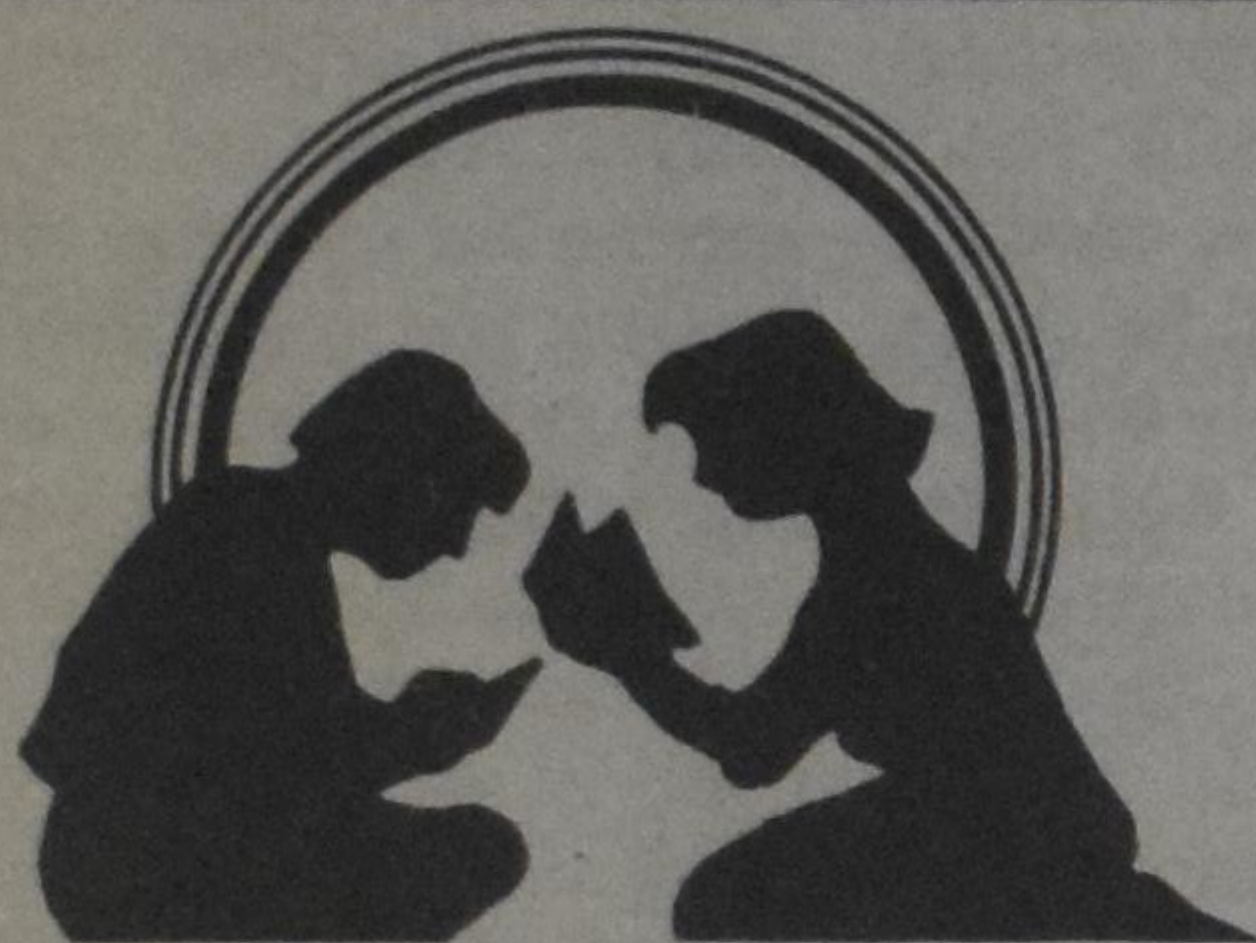
Cor. 15: "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?"

For the Christian the end of the road is not death but life. Isaiah said it and Paul repeats it: "Death will be swallowed up in victory." "O Lord he can dance, old Shiva."

Reading Diana Brebner's poetry one will find much biblical language. She speaks from the background of her religious youth. She has learned to appreciate each day as it is given and to look for the beauty of the small things. Even an egg shell may inspire her.

I also admire in her work her love for nature. Looking at some black and white killer whales (orcas) in the Pacific ocean "as they rose and fell in the grey waters" Diana gives her poem the almost comical title "Four Nuns In The Pacific." These whales are like nuns, and the nuns are like "white and black prayers."

I rejoiced noticing that a child from Dutch origin had become a great Canadian poet. We wish and hope that she still may have many good years in remission and in dedication to her art. We feel that her "life forms" are "radiant" indeed.



## Friends of God

Wayne Brouwer

## Be kind

"A kind man benefits himself, but a cruel man brings trouble on himself" (Prov. 11: 17).

We know that kind people are attractive people. It's not the cruel but the kind that we reach out for. As Beth Robertson wrote:

*When I think of the charming people I know,  
It's surprising how often I find  
The chief of the qualities that make them so  
Is just that they are kind.*

But here's a twist on that thought that deserves a second reflection: sometimes the kindness of the kind needs to be directed first to our own selves.

### Rearview mirror

You see, there are often times that we judge ourselves harshly for past mistakes and indiscretions and allow these limits of person or character to freeze us in the present. Soren Kierkegaard knew that when he once observed that "life is lived forward, but it's understood backward."

Sometimes we trick ourselves into believing that we had as much sense earlier in our lives as we do now. We compress our insight into a single capsule of wisdom and pretend that we had all the experience to draw on for wisdom in previous years as we do today.

David even played that trick in one of his psalms. "Don't remember the sins of my youth!" he pleaded with God (Ps. 25: 7). But do you think for a minute that if he were to become young all over again he wouldn't make any mistakes? Do you think that he'd be perfect if he was born a baby in his mother's arms a second time?

### Finishing our education

You know it's not so! "Life is lived forward, but it's understood backward." And it isn't until we've travelled on a ways in life that we begin to understand what our choices and our actions have made of us.

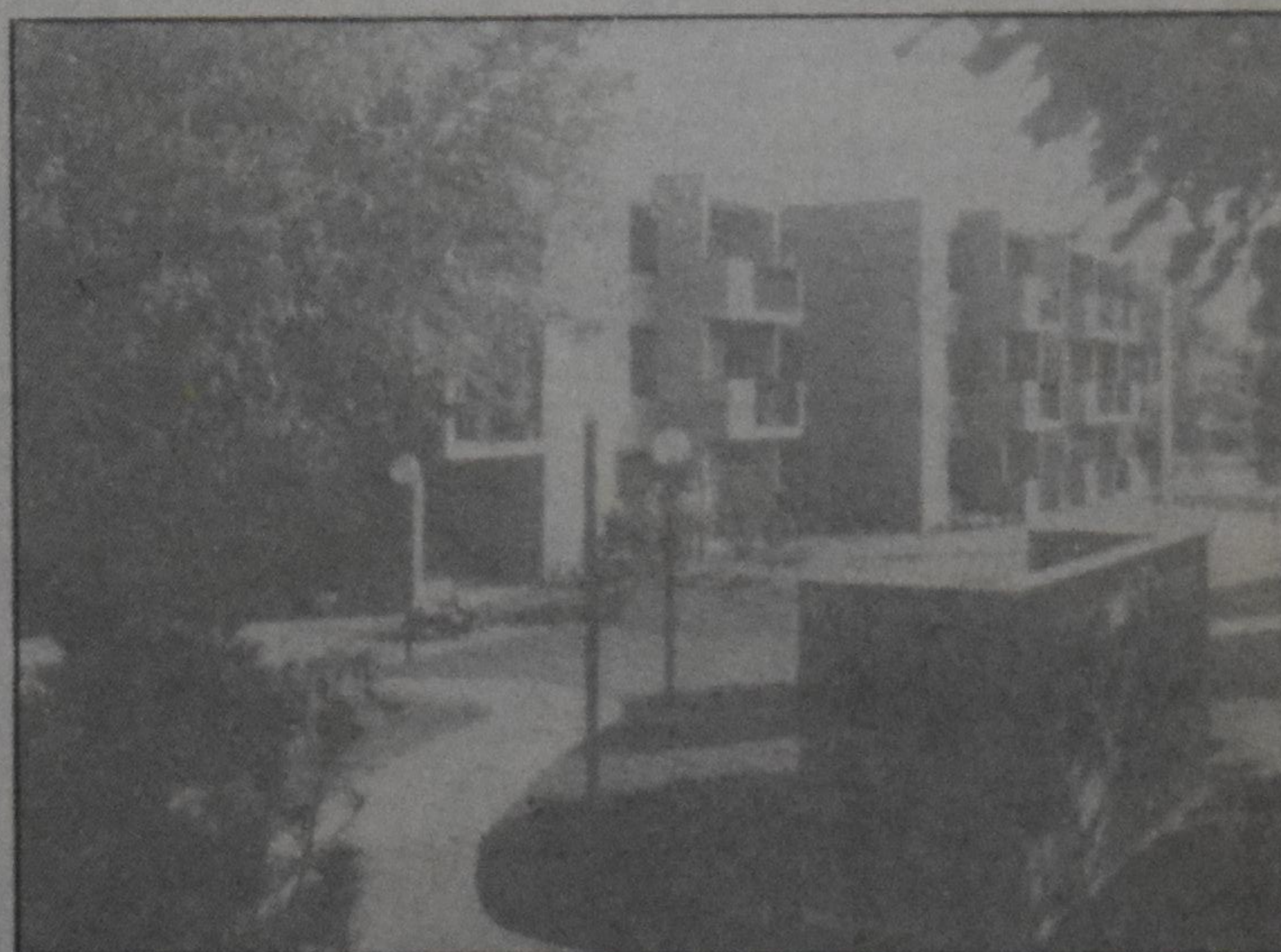
Harry Truman used to say that "it's what you learn after you know it all that really counts!" He was right. Sure, we need to learn the agony of repentance and the humility of restitution for wrongs done. Sure, we need to grow in the grace of commitments and deeper spirituality. But kind people can also benefit themselves by casting a few kindnesses toward the persons they've been on the road to now.

Otherwise, the future can be wasted, held captive by the limitations of the past.

Wayne Brouwer is a pastor at First Christian Reformed Church in London, Ont.

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## Peter and Marja are



### Dear P & M:

Since an operation several years ago I have been exhausted. Personal reading (including very helpful articles and book suggestions in C.C.) led me to a diagnosis of chronic fatigue syndrome. My family doctor treats me for fatigue without giving an official diagnosis.

I refuse to spend my precious energy going to larger cities and hospitals for tests because there is no known cure for the syndrome anyway. I have found myself able to meet basic family responsibilities (husband and two children) by resting for several hours in the afternoon and taking shorter rests at other times of the day. But I have also been forced to eliminate most extra-family and some family activities.

On the one hand the condition is frustrating. On the other hand I feel very fortunate because I can be present for my children and because my husband encourages me to hire domestic help and to rest as I feel the need. He also picks up some of the slack in shopping and child care.

A difficulty lies in others' and my own perception of myself as "either lazy or crazy." Do you have any suggestions on how to approach this perception problem?

### Dear Chronically Fatigued:

From the sounds of it, you've diagnosed yourself. We strongly urge you to have that diagnosis confirmed by your own doctor. If he dismisses your symptoms as nonsense you will have to be prepared to seek a second medical opinion. In fact, you should go so far as to ask for a referral to a specialist who deals with chronic fatigue patients. You need to remember that you may be suffering from something else.

We know that you don't want to use your energy to go for tests, but look where that leaves you: you're ambivalent and uncertain about your condition. That, in turn, adds to your own self-doubts and negative self-perception because you don't even have an official diagnosis to back you up when you tell people that you're unable to pitch in. Worst of all, you're left without a plan of ac-

tion and the resources of a skilled physician or a support group of other persons with the same condition.

If and when you discover that your self-diagnosis is correct your church community will respond appropriately with prayer support and practical help. The majority of people are very sympathetic once they know what's wrong. Most people will be able to accept it and speak about it comfortably with you. Their awkwardness will disappear. But none of that will happen for you or for them until you get that medical opinion.

We say "most people" because we can't promise you that everyone will understand if a doctor affirms your self-diagnosis. You, too, will continue to have ambivalent feelings and bouts of insecurity and depression. That's because chronic fatigue, unlike a fracture or a heart condition, is an invisible virus with symptoms that make you wonder whether you're "either lazy or crazy." Everyone affected by this condition experiences these ongoing frustrations.

By the way, your husband sounds like a gem. The Lord has blessed you with a very supportive and understanding marriage partner. But you should realize that he, too, will be greatly helped by an accurate diagnosis. As loving as he is, you need to realize that he's operating in a vacuum. And that can only go on for so long. He, too, needs to know what's really wrong as well as what's available in the way of help and insight for both of you.

Pray for God's strength and the energy to take the steps that you need to make. Write us and let us know the outcome.

Write to: P & M  
c/o Christian Courier  
4-261 Martindale Road  
St. Catharines, ON L2W 1A1

Peter and Marja Slofstra are a pastor and wife team living in St. Catharines, Ont. They are assisted by an advisory panel consisting of Herman de Jong, Bill Lidkea, Tom Zeyl, Marian Van Til and Bert Witvoet.

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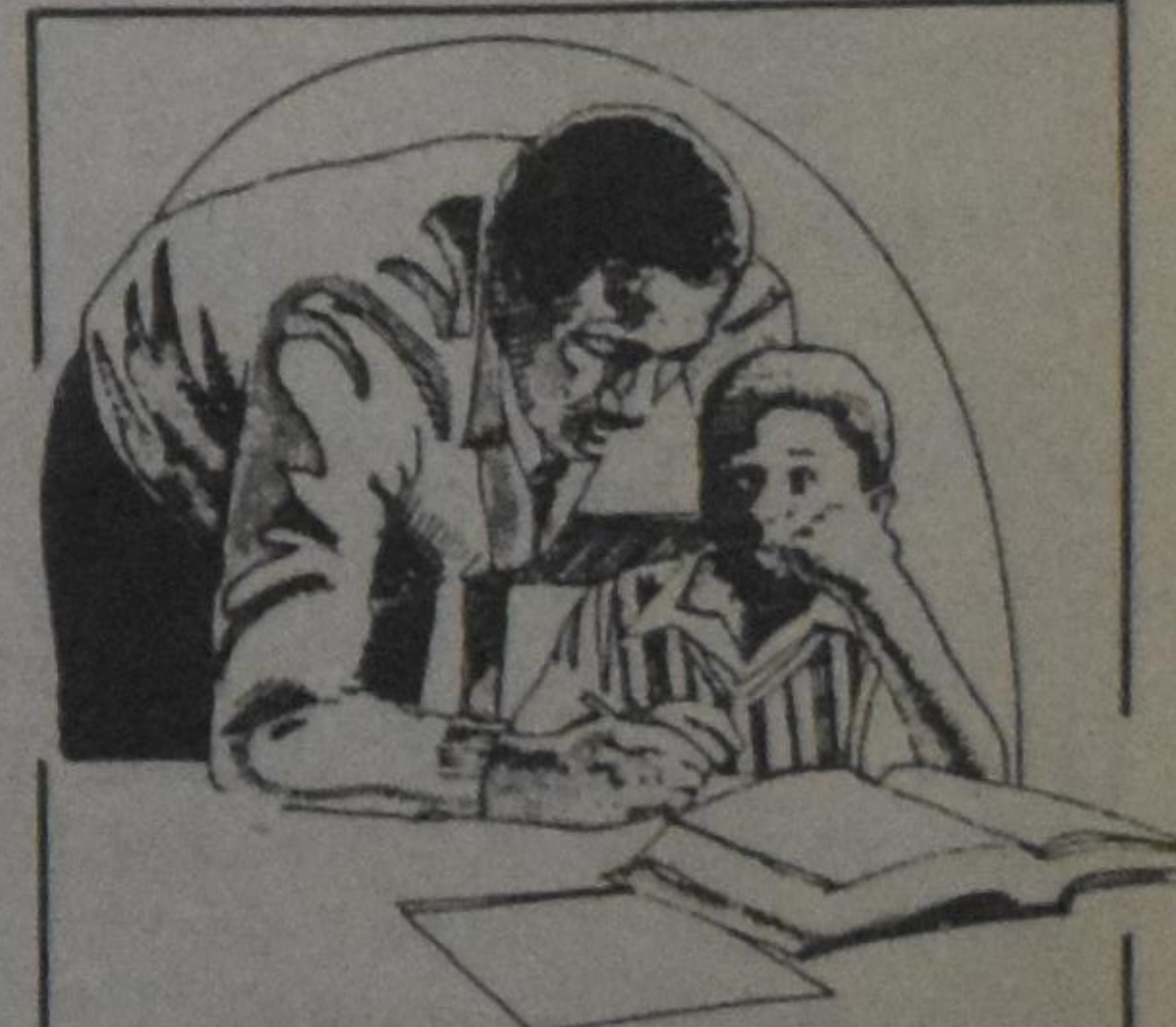
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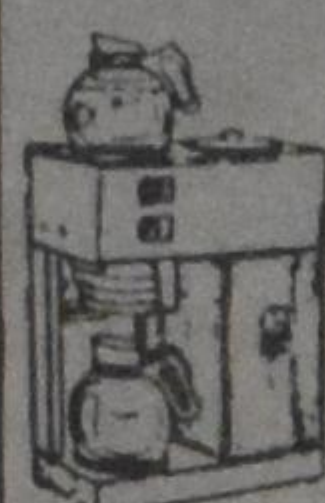
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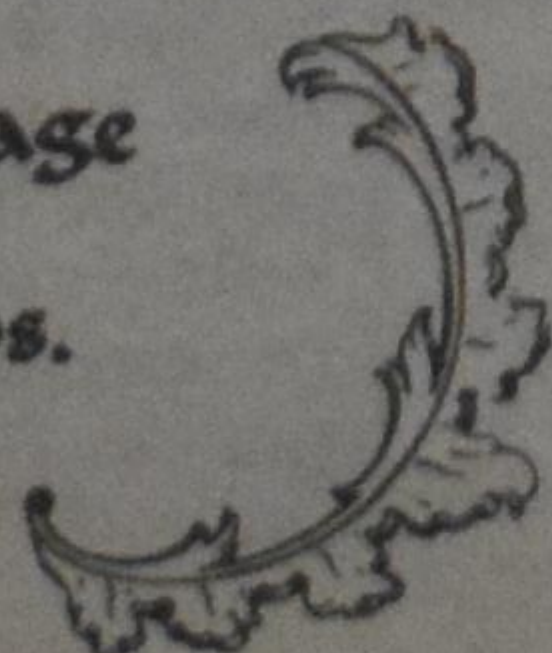
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		<p>1953 February 16 1993</p> <p>"Commit your way unto the Lord, trust in Him and He shall bring it to pass" (Ps. 37: 5).</p> <p>With thankfulness to God we rejoice with our parents</p> <p>ALBERT and JEANETTE VANDERZWAAG (nee MULDER)</p> <p>as they celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary, D.V. It is our prayer that God will bless you with much happiness and many years to come.</p> <p>With love from your children, Jim &amp; Jane Greg, Dennis, Sara Bugs &amp; Linda Cheri, Mike, Jodi Jane &amp; Rudy Dejong Heather, Karlye, Sam, Rebekah Rob &amp; Wilma Katie, Jake Val &amp; John Berkenpas Mike, Tessa, Christina, James</p> <p>An open house will be held in our parents' honour on Feb. 20, 1993, from 3-5 p.m. at Calvary Chr. Ref. Church, Flamborough, Ont.</p> <p>Best wishes only please.</p> <p>Home address: 827 Brock Rd., R.R. #4, Dundas, ON L9H 5E4</p>	<p>Visvliet Hamilton July 1, 1907 — Jan. 26, 1993</p> <p>The Lord called home on Tuesday Jan. 26, 1993</p> <p>SIEGER DE GROOT</p> <p>peacefully in his 86th year.</p> <p>He was predeceased by his loving wife Wilma in 1989, and two grandchildren in 1966 and 1992, also by three sisters in the Netherlands.</p> <p>Loving father of: Alice &amp; Richard Veenstra Henk &amp; Ann De Groot Clarence &amp; Tina De Groot Andy &amp; Susan De Groot Gary &amp; Henny De Groot Ann &amp; Keith Koens</p> <p>Sadly missed by 16 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.</p> <p>Also survived by one sister and one brother in the Netherlands.</p> <p>Funeral service took place on Friday, Jan. 29, 1993.</p> <p>Correspondence address: Mrs. Alice Veenstra, 647 Rymal Road East, Hamilton, ON L8W 1B4</p>	<p>Niezijl Brampton Sept. 6, 1906 — Jan. 30, 1993</p> <p>"In het kruis zal 'k eeuwig roemen! En geen wet zal mij verdoemen; Christus droeg de vloek voor mij! Christus is voor mij gestorven, heeft gena voor mij verworven! 'k Ben van dood en zonde vrij!"</p> <p><b>WIETSKA (WILMA) MULDER-CAZEMIER</b></p> <p>was called home by her Lord and Saviour and quietly answered his call. Though we celebrate her life and rejoice in her promotion to glory, we will sadly miss her.</p> <p>Harry Mulder, her loving husband for 48 years.</p> <p>Ralph &amp; Frances Mulder John &amp; Gerry Mulder Jim &amp; Giny Mulder Harry &amp; Barb Mulder Andy &amp; Bernice Mulder Alice &amp; Dick DeKleine Peter &amp; Edith Mulder Al &amp; Wilma Mulder Geraldine Tenyenhuus Shirley Mulder Susan Mulder</p> <p>Her daughter Joan predeceased her in 1975.</p> <p>She will also be lovingly remembered by 32 grandchildren and 32 great-grandchildren.</p> <p>"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose" (Rom. 8: 28).</p> <p>Correspondence address: 7900 McLaughlin Rd., H306, Brampton, ON L6V 3N2</p>
	<p><b>Anniversaries</b></p> <p>1953 February 27 1993</p> <p>"Give thanks to the Lord for He is good, His love endures forever" (Ps. 107: 1).</p> <p>With thankfulness and praise to our Lord for His faithfulness and love, we hope to celebrate, the Lord willing, the 40th wedding anniversary of our parents and grandparents:</p> <p>JOHN and TINIE BENJAMINS (nee HAGEN)</p> <p>We pray God will continue to bless and keep them in His loving care.</p> <p>Cathy &amp; George Lubbers — Wingham Karen, Brian, Dennis, Richard Grace &amp; Christopher Ross — Waterloo Julia Evelyn &amp; Andy Knetsch — Drayton Judy, Mark, Bradley, Shawna, Dillian Jake &amp; Judy Benjamins — Kitchener John, Jake, Steven, Jenny, Mark John &amp; Sandra Benjamins — Blyth Michael, Ryan, Laura, Brittany Ken &amp; MaryAnn Benjamins — Wyoming Jantina, Derek Jerry &amp; Marg Benjamins — Brantford Joshua</p> <p>An open house will be held on Saturday, Feb. 27, 1993, D.V., from 3-5 p.m. at the Clinton &amp; District Chr. School.</p> <p>Best wishes only, please.</p> <p>Home address: R.R. #1, Seaforth, ON N0K 1W0</p>	<p><b>Real Estate</b></p> <p><b>For sale: Beautiful, profitable, 100+ - acre fruit/vegetable farm.</b></p> <p>Located few-minute drive from <b>Pembroke, Ont.</b>, on paved road. 1993 strawberry crop in place. Has 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom renovated home. Barns etc. Approximately 50-acre tile-drained.</p> <p>Much potential. Irrigation, pumps, tractors and all necessary equipment included.</p> <p>Owner retiring. Priced to sell.</p> <p><b>For more information call:</b> (613) 735-5567</p>	<p><b>Personal</b></p> <p><b>Protestant Dutch/Canadian gentleman</b>, living in Southwestern Ontario, would like to meet lady, (late-50s, mid-60s) for lasting relationship. Send correspondence to:</p> <p>M. Boersma 808 Oxford St. London, ON N6H 1V2</p>	<p><b>For Rent</b></p> <p><b>One-bedroom apartment</b>, includes fridge, stove, washer, dryer and parking. Available April 1, 1993, in the Martindale area, <b>St. Catharines, Ont.</b> Call: (416) 688-4164, ask for Gerda.</p>
<p><b>Births</b></p> <p><b>VAN HELDEN (nee BIEL):</b></p> <p>With thanks to God for entrusting to us this precious gift of life, we, Tim and Sandra, are pleased to announce the birth of our daughter,</p> <p>KAITLYN AMANDA</p> <p>a sister for Jocelyn.</p> <p>Born Jan. 4, 1993, at 4:45 a.m., weighing 8 lbs., 1 oz.</p> <p>Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Carl Biel of Guelph, Ont., and Mr. and Mrs. van Helden of Smithville, Ont.</p> <p>Home address: 64 Stevens Cr., Georgetown, ON L7G 1B6</p>				



## Classifieds

Employment Wanted	Job Opportunities	Job Opportunities
<p><b>Carpenter with seven years experience</b> seeks position as maintenance carpenter, preferably in Southern Ontario, but willing to consider other locations.</p> <p>Please reply to: <b>File #2604, c/o Christian Courier, 4-261, Martindale Rd., St. Catharines, ON L2W 1A1</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>THE SOCIETY FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION IN SOUTHERN ALBERTA</b></p> <p align="center"><b>Phone: (403) 328-4783 Fax: (403) 328-4082</b> — Operating —</p> <p align="center"><b>Immanuel Christian School    Taber Christian School</b> Enrolment 730 students</p> <p align="center">Invites applications for the position of <b>BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR</b></p> <p>due to the retirement of our present Administrator after twenty-three (23) years of service. The person we are looking for will be responsible for all the non-academic operations of our Society, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The accounting office, payroll, budgets, financial statements, accounts receivable, accounts payable, etc.</li> <li>- Supervise a fleet of fourteen (14) school buses.</li> <li>- Supervise the maintenance and janitorial program.</li> <li>- Ordering of supplies.</li> </ul> <p>This person will report directly to the Society Board. He/She must have the ability to share ideas and work with the educational administrators, as we view our administrative group as a team. The successful applicant should have a good understanding of Christian Education from a Reformed perspective. A full-time administrative assistant is already in place.</p> <p align="center">** Salary commensurate with training and experience **</p> <p align="center">PLEASE SEND APPLICATION AND RESUME TO:</p> <p align="center">Society for Christian Education in Southern Alberta ATTENTION: M.D. Visser, Business Administrator 802-6th Avenue North Lethbridge, AB T1H 0S1</p>	<p align="center"><b>ASSISTANT CONTROLLER</b></p> <p>Large wholesale nursery in the <b>Hamilton, Ont.</b>, area will have an opening for an <b>assistant controller</b> on or before <b>April 1, 1993</b>, who will be capable of assuming full controllership within a year.</p> <p>We are looking for a C.M.A. or C.G.A. with at least seven years experience in accounting, financial reporting and control, office management, credit and collections.</p> <p>Applicant must be fully familiar with computerized systems, and knowledge of the nursery industry will be helpful. If interested in this position, please forward your application, including a detailed resumé, to:</p> <p align="right">File #2603 c/o Christian Courier 4-261 Martindale Rd. St. Catharines, ON L2W 1A1</p>
<p align="center"><b>Job Opportunities</b></p> <p><b>Experienced all-round carpenter</b>, to help take over small building construction Co., complete with shop and equipment, in Eastern Ontario. Specializing in custom homes, renovations, and some commercial construction.</p> <p>Profit sharing or partnership will be considered. If interested please reply to <b>File #2602, c/o Christian Courier, 4-261 Martindale Rd., St. Catharines, ON L2W 1A1</b></p>		
<p align="center"><b>For Rent</b></p> <p><b>Affordable Florida Vacation.</b> Live in a completely furnished travel trailer in a cosy park, near attractions in central Florida. Available for two weeks or longer. Just bring your personal items. Starting at \$175 U.S. per week.</p> <p align="center"><b>Sunshine R.V. Rentals</b> 922 N. Grove St. Eustis, FL 32726 (904) 589-1323</p>		<p align="center"><b>EDMONTON SOCIETY FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BUSINESS MANAGER</b> (May 1, 1993)</p> <p>The Society operates four schools, with a student population of 1,000, in three Elementary - Junior High Schools and one Senior High School, on a budget of approximately \$4 million. Our present business manager is retiring and we are seeking a person to fill this position; ideally, this person will possess an appropriate Accounting or Business degree (or equivalent combination of education and experience) and have a thorough understanding of Christian education from a Reformed perspective.</p> <p>The person selected will be one</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• who is a self-starter with good organizational talent,</li> <li>• who possesses excellent interpersonal skills, oral and written communication ability,</li> <li>• who is an experienced administrator with budgeting and financial planning skills, and knowledge of computer technology in the financial area,</li> <li>• who is able to give motivational leadership to a small clerical group as well as to the wider sphere of volunteer activity, especially in the fund-raising area.</li> </ul> <p>If this position attracts you, please send letter of inquiry and resumé to:</p> <p align="right">Dr. Wilco Vanden Born, Board chairperson 5711-139 Avenue, NW Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5A 1E8</p> <p align="right"><i>before February 16, 1993.</i></p>
<p align="center"><b>For Sale</b></p> <p><b>Owner wishing to retire</b></p> <p><b>For sale:</b> Long-established family restaurant and take-out in Hamilton, Ont. Excellent business, very good location, plenty of parking. Willing to train new owners. Large three-bedroom apartment available. Minimum capital required \$200,000. For further information write to:</p> <p align="center">P.O. Box 93090, Burlington, ON, L7M 4A3</p>	<p align="center"><b>Events</b></p>	
<p align="center"><b>Teachers</b></p> <p><b>Aylmer, Ont.: Immanuel Chr. School</b> will have a possible opening for a <b>teaching principal</b> for September 1993. Interested candidates forward application to:</p> <p align="center"><b>John KrienseLokker</b> R.R. #1 Brownsville, ON N0L 1C0 Phone: (519) 877-2519</p>	<p align="center"><i>Milk &amp; Honey</i> <b>SUMMER FESTIVAL</b></p> <p><i>A vacation with a Christian perspective</i></p>  <p><b>F</b>ellowship, outings, guided tours, banquets, and entertainment. These are just some of the things we offer you if you vacation with us.</p> <p>In addition, Redeemer College Religion and Theology professor Gene Haas will take us through several of Jesus' parables of the kingdom. We will gain a deeper appreciation for what our Lord teaches us about His Kingdom as we explore the theme:</p> <p align="center"><b>"Living in The Kingdom"</b> <b>JUNE 7-11, 1993 at Redeemer College</b></p> <p align="center">For reservations call Janet Hoytema at (416) 648-2131 Redeemer College      Ancaster, Ontario L9G 3N6</p>	<p align="center"><b>PRODUCTION FOREMAN REQUIRED</b></p> <p>Experience in food packing/production would be an asset. Mechanically inclined. Able to perform hands on, multi-functions. Eager to learn more. Reply in confidence to:</p> <p align="right">P.O. Box 117, Grimsby, ON L3M 4G1</p>



## Classifieds

## Teachers

Aylmer, Ont.: Immanuel Chr. School will have possible openings in primary, junior and intermediate divisions. Strengths in French and music preferred. Applicants should send resume to:

Andy Vanderploeg, Principal  
Immanuel Chr. School  
75 Caverly Rd.  
Aylmer, ON  
N5H 2P6  
Phone: (519) 773-8476

Bowmanville, Ont.: Knox Chr. School has a definite opening for a Grade 3 teacher for the 1993/94 school year. Interested, qualified applicants for this position as well as possible openings at other grade levels are invited to apply. If you would like to join our team of dedicated Christian teachers at a dynamic, growing school (present enrolment: 225) in a modern, up-to-date facility, please forward your letter of application and resume to:

Bill Helmus, Principal  
Knox Chr. School  
410 Scugog St., R.R. #1  
Bowmanville, ON L1C 3K2  
Phone: (416) 623-5871.

Burnaby, B.C.: John Knox Chr. School has openings for the position of a Grade 5/music teacher and also an opening for a Grade 1/2 position for the 1993/94 school year. Interested applicants send resume to:

S. VanderWoud, Vice-Principal  
8260 13th Ave.  
Burnaby, BC  
V3N 2G5  
Phone: (604) 522-1410

Drayton, Ont.: Calvin Chr. School invites candidates to apply for a possible opening in Grade 5 for the 1993/94 school year. The ability to teach French will be regarded as an asset.

CCS is a well-established, growing school, in a pollution-free, rural setting. We anticipate a student enrolment of about 230 students and a faculty of 11 teachers for next year. As a very supportive, active community, we offer a program that includes a challenging curriculum, a library, special education, a gymnasium, single-grade classrooms, and extensive extra-curricular activities.

If you would like to become part of a vibrant team with a mix of young and young-at-heart colleagues who are committed to provide high quality Christian education, please forward your resume to:

Mr. A.J. Vanderstoel, Principal  
Calvin Christian School  
Box 141, Drayton, ON  
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Phone: (519) 638-2935  
Fax: (519) 638-2935

## Teachers

## Durham Christian High School Bowmanville, Ontario

is soliciting applications for the following probable teaching positions:

**French** (1 position)

**Bible, art, choir, English**  
(any combination of the above for 1 1/2 positions)

Please direct inquiries or send resumes to:

Ren Siebenga, Principal  
Durham Christian High School  
R.R. #1  
Bowmanville, ON  
L1C 3K2  
(416) 623-5940

## The Rimbey Christian School Rimbey, Alberta

situated in Central Alberta has the following possible openings:

1. Teaching principal:  
50% teaching/50% administration
2. Lower elementary teacher

The Rimbey Chr. School is an interdenominational school of 125 students, K-9. All interested applicants should send their resumé to:

Rimbey Chr. School  
Attention: Brian Wheale  
Box 90  
Rimbey, AB T0C 2J0  
Phone: (403) 843-3904 (school)  
(403) 843-6010 (home)

Timothy Christian School  
has a definite

## Principal

opening for the 1993-94 school year.

Our school of 130 students and nine staff was established in 1958 and is situated in a northwest suburb of Metropolitan Toronto known as Rexdale. If you are interested in leading a dedicated staff and being supported by a committed Christian school community, we invite you to apply for this position. We look forward to assisting you to use your talents and gifts in our school to help prepare God's children for service in His kingdom. Please send resumes or direct enquiries to:

William Groot (416-743-2554 — evenings)  
Principal Search Committee  
Timothy Christian School  
28 Elmhurst Drive  
Rexdale ON M9W 2J5

## Teachers



## TEACHING OPPORTUNITIES AT PACIFIC CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

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- Chemistry
- Math
- Home Economics
- Social Studies
- Counselling
- Computers

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Mr. John Messelink, Secondary Principal  
654 Agnes Street, Victoria, BC  
V8Z 2E6  
Phone: (604) 479-4532 Fax: (604) 479-3511

## Events

Students  
of

London District Christian Secondary School  
present

## "You're a good man Charlie Brown"

(a play with wit, humour, and touching insights  
into life's real and imaginary problems)

From the comic-strip, "Peanuts," by Charles M. Schulz  
Director: Kip Edinborough Longstaff  
Musical Director: Calvin P. Davies

February 26, 27 — March 5, 6

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Advanced Tickets.

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London, ON

(519) 455-4360

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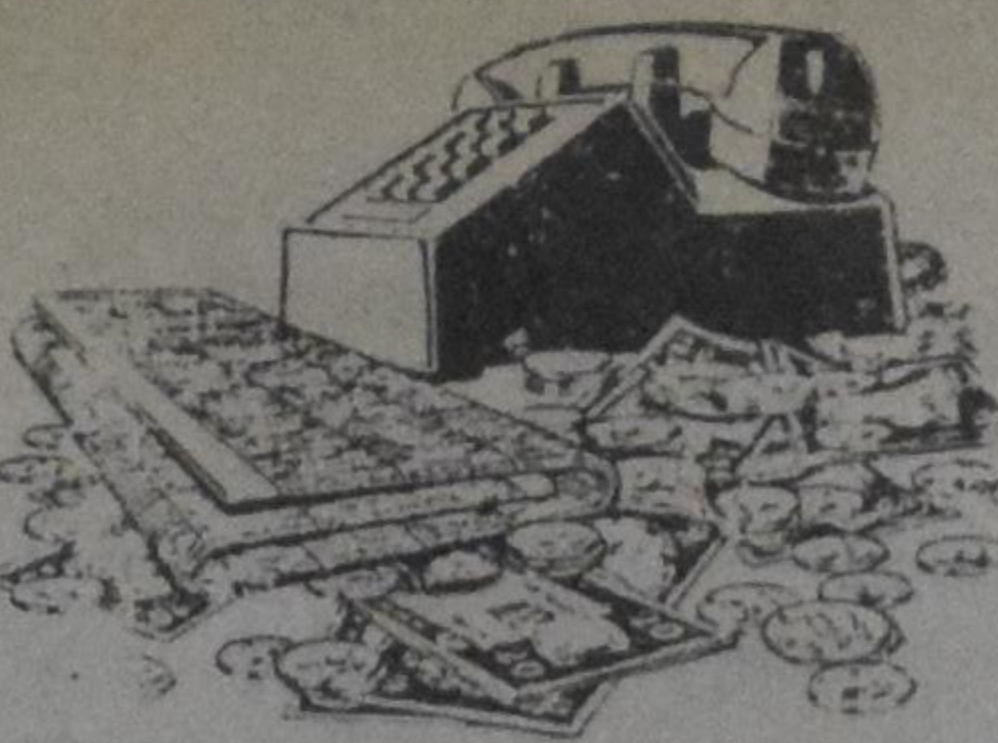
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## Classifieds/Events

Teachers	Teachers	Church
<p><b>Langley, B.C.: Langley Chr. School</b> (K-7, 400 pupils), a rapidly growing school in the heart of the Fraser Valley, is accepting applications for September 1993. We will have openings at <b>Grade 1</b> and <b>Grade 4/5</b> levels with a <b>possibility of other openings</b> as well. Address application and inquiries to:</p> <p><b>Leo Smit, Principal</b> Langley Christian School 21789 - 50th Avenue Langley, BC V3A 3T2 Phone No. (604) 533-2222 Fax No. (604) 533-7276</p>	<p><b>Red Deer, Alta.: The Red Deer Chr. School</b> has three possible openings for the 1993/94 school year, including two in our <b>primary</b> division and one in <b>music/drama</b>. Successful applicants will be joining a dynamic staff in a rapidly growing school with plans for a new school building in the near future. Resumes and inquiries should be directed to:</p> <p><b>Mr. R. Duggan, Principal</b> 14 McVicar St. Red Deer, AB T4N 0M1</p>	<p><b>Church News</b></p> <p><b>Christian Reformed Church</b></p> <p><b>Calls declined</b> — to Blyth, Ont., Rev. Jakob H. Kits of Edmonton.</p>
<p><b>Leduc, Alta.: Covenant Chr. School</b> (P-9, 198 students) is accepting applications for possible openings at the <b>primary, intermediate</b> and/or <b>junior high</b> levels. If you are interested in becoming a member of this innovative and enthusiastic community of learners and teachers, submit your resume to:</p> <p><b>Gayle Monsma</b> Covenant Chr. School Box 3827 Leduc, AB T9E 6M7 Phone: (403) 986-8353</p>	<p><b>Smithers, B.C.: Bulkley Valley Chr. School</b> (K-12, 300 students on 2 campuses) has, for Sept. 1993, a <b>full-time position in French 4-12</b>. Please address enquiries/resumes to:</p> <p><b>Mr. Evert Vroon, Principal</b> c/o B.V. Christian School P.O. Box 3635, Smithers, BC V0J 2N0</p>	<p><b>Miscellaneous</b></p>
<p><b>London, Ont.: London District Chr. Secondary School</b> invites applications for a possible <b>French</b> position for the 1993/94 school year. Please send your letter of application and resume to:</p> <p><b>Mr. H. Kooy, Principal</b> LDCSS, 24 Braesyde Ave. London, ON N5W 1V3 Phone: (519) 455-4360</p>	<p><b>Surrey, B.C.: Fraser Valley Christian High School</b> is an interdenominational school in the reformed tradition serving families and students in the lower Fraser Valley. Due to changing staff and increasing enrolment, we are looking for a <b>music</b> teacher, an <b>art</b> teacher, a <b>math/computer studies</b> teacher and a teacher with interests in one or more of the <b>humanities</b>. Applicants should send resumes to:</p> <p><b>Al Boerema, Principal</b> Fraser Valley Christian High School 15353 - 92 Avenue Surrey, BC V3R 1C3 Phone: (604) 581-1033</p>	<p><b>CHRISTIAN COUNSELLING</b></p> <p> Dr. Stan Skarsten, Ph.D. Clinical Director 20 Evangelical Therapists</p> <p><b>THE INSTITUTE OF FAMILY LIVING</b> Individual, Marriage, Family &amp; Group Therapy</p> <p><b>Offices in:</b> Toronto, Ajax, Unionville, Oakville, Hamilton, Grimsby, Port Colborne, Brantford &amp; Cambridge</p> <p><b>487-3613 or</b> <b>1-800-461-7173 (toll free)</b></p>
<p><b>London, Ont.: The London Parental Chr. School</b> invites beginning and experienced teachers to apply for possible teaching positions at the <b>primary</b> and <b>junior grade</b> levels. We are a school community serving more than 100 families, located in the heart of Southwestern Ontario. Please send letter of application and resume or contact the Principal,</p> <p><b>Mr. Herb Goodhoofd</b> LPCS 202 Clarke Rd. London, ON N5W 5E4 Phone: (519) 455-0360</p> <p>We look forward to hearing from you.</p>	<p><b>Vancouver, B.C.: Vancouver Christian School</b>, a denominationally diverse community currently offering Kindergarten through Grade 9, anticipates having <b>openings at several levels</b> for the 1993/94 school year. If you are a fully-certified teacher and would be interested in participating in the development of Christian education in the Vancouver area please send your resume, indicating your areas of interest and expertise, to:</p> <p><b>Ron Donkersloot, Principal</b> Vancouver Christian School 3496 Mons Drive, Vancouver, BC V5M 3E6</p>	<p></p> <p><b>Save money by using the classifieds!</b></p>
<p><b>Ottawa, Ont.: Ottawa Chr. School</b> is interested in applications from <b>French Specialist</b> teachers to fill a position commencing September 1993. This is a 58% position but could be increased by assuming non-French responsibilities at the <b>senior elementary</b> level. Send resume to:</p> <p><b>Wm. Van Dyke, Principal</b> Ottawa Chr. School 2191 Benjamin Avenue Ottawa, ON K2A 1P6 or Fax to 1-613-224-3929</p>	<p><b>Vernon, B.C.: Okanagan North — The Vernon Chr. School</b> is an interdenominational school providing education to 162 students in Kindergarten to Grade 8. Due to anticipated growth, there are <b>possible</b> openings in <b>primary</b> and <b>intermediate</b> grades. Please direct any inquiries to:</p> <p><b>Elco Vandergrift, Principal</b> R.R. #3, Site 19A, Comp. 4 Vernon, BC V1T 6L6 Phone: (604) 545-7345</p>	<p><b>THIS WEEK'S PUZZLE</b> by Richard Thomas</p> <p>ACROSS 1 Browning or Gray 5 Footfall 9 Army trainee 14 Unsilently 15 "Dies —" 16 Fiber plant 17 Convey 19 Misled, slangily 20 Roadside sights 22 Cut 23 Some brews 24 Asian boat 28 Outside access 30 Frequently 33 Bitter drug 34 Petit — 35 Special atmosphere 36 "Penrod" author 39 Seeks office 40 Tinges 41 Peace goddess 42 Newspaper notices 43 Sell 44 Wise guy 45 Pay heed 47 Bristol bar 48 Hitchcock film 55 Drunken spree 56 Hard white pottery 57 Prevent 58 Prescribed course for ships 59 More 60 "— Johnny!" 61 Civ. or elec. — 62 Search for</p> <p>DOWN 1 Green roll? 2 Golliwogg 3 Israeli airline 4 Actress Daly 5 Transference tube 6 Cavalry unit 7 Deserve 8 Seeger or Fountain 9 Wheedle 10 Light on one's feet</p> <p>11 Justice, to pals 12 Prior nights 13 Williams or Turner 18 Hanks' hit 21 Father: pref. 24 Native-born Israeli 25 Verbally 26 Revenuer's prey 27 Favorites 28 Hurt by horns 29 Shore birds 31 Combat zone 32 Chief Justice Roger 34 Rural deity 35 City on the Jumna 37 Unit of heat 38 Rain cloud 43 Menservants 44 Abolitionist Charles 46 Dangerous wave 47 Tine</p> <p>48 Joint 49 Dossier 50 Algerian port 51 Map abbrs. 52 Gift of charity</p> <p>53 First word of Mass. motto 54 Emit tunes 55 Scrooge word</p> <p><b>Last week's puzzle</b></p> <p>     AISLE ROTH CAR      UNTIL EXCEL AGE      KNICK MOUSETRAP      LISBON DEVIL      HALT AVIAN DENY      ELL STEAMER      ALIEN NORETURN      DEFRAYS NOMINEE      SNEAKIER IMAGE      EPAULET LAD      WEDS SLIER ILLY      AXIOM NAGANO      RATPOISON MAYER      PCT TROUT ONEGA      STY SAYSO SEDGY   </p>

## Calendar

Feb. 10-18 CSS's Harry Houtman visits Alberta.

Feb. 13 "Valentine Dessert Social," featuring master story-teller Hugh Cook, with musical renditions by "Collegium Musicum" (dir. G. Hoekstra), 7:30 p.m., Jubilee Fellowship CRC, St. Catharines, Ont. Tickets \$5 at the door, or call (416) 562-7590.

Feb. 13-14 50th Anniversary celebrations of the Holland Marsh District Christian School. Feb. 13, 2 p.m., celebrative program. Feb. 14, 3 p.m., thanksgiving service. Both events at CRC, Holland Marsh, Ont.

Feb. 20 Annual benefit concert (for Telecare Brampton) by the "Canadian Orpheus Male Choir," 8 p.m., St. Paul's United Church, Brampton, Ont. For info./tickets call (416) 459-8439.

Feb. 20 "The King's Guild Family Fair," from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at The King's College, Edmonton, Alta. Bakers, craftspeople and other entrepreneurs will exhibit their wares. Lunch available. Call Grace (403) 474-7407 or Roely (403) 477-8564 for table rentals (\$10).

Feb. 26-27 "You're a good man, Charlie Brown," will be performed at 8 p.m. by students of London District Chr.

Secondary School, London, Ont.

Feb. 27 "Benton Community Concert," by the Benton Baptist choir and organist Jonathan Oldengarm. At 7:30 p.m., Benton St. Baptist Church, Kitchener, Ont. Freewill offering.

Feb. 28 City-wide hymn sing, 8 p.m., First CRC, Sarnia, Ont. Special music by the "Sursum Corda Male Choir."

Feb. 28 A Redeemer College home-coming concert for the choir. Conductor: Christiaan Teeuwssen. At 8 p.m., Redeemer College, Ancaster, Ont. Freewill offering.

Mar. 5-6 "You're a good man, Charlie Brown," will be performed at 8 p.m. by students of London District Chr. Secondary School, London, Ont.

Mar. 5-7 Serving Christ in the Nineties conference "Moving into ministry," at Salvation Army Conference Centre, Jackson's Point, Ont. (on the southern shore of Lake Simcoe). Main speakers: Derk Pierik, Paul Marshall and Aileen Van Ginkel. For info. call (416) 825-3578.

Mar. 12-13 Woodstock Dutch Theatre Group presents "Kontakt met Kootje," a comedy in three acts, 8 p.m., W.C.I. auditorium, Woodstock, Ont. Tickets/info.: (519) 462-2866.



## News

# Mennonite couple to become voluntary 'exiles' in Siberia

AKRON, Pa. (MCC) — The word "Siberia" does not kindle cheerful images within most Mennonites of Russian heritage. Under Stalin's regime thousands of Mennonites were exiled to Siberia in the 1930s and '40s, dumped off in the northern Russian wilderness sometimes without shelter or provisions.

Now a Mennonite couple from Ontario is moving to Siberia of their own accord, excited and happy about the venture. Retired fruit farmers Ben and Erna Falk from Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont., are beginning a two-year Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) assignment in the town of Neudachino.

Neudachino was not founded by exiled Mennonites but rather by Mennonites who moved to southwestern Siberia in the early 1900s when it became possible to buy land formerly held by the state.

Although "Neudachino" means "unsuccessful" in Russian, the 600-inhabitant village has actually been quite successful.

## Why has it prospered?

Not only has Neudachino managed to retain its Mennonite identity, it has prospered economically. So much so that a Soviet sociologist, Natalia Baranova, has studied the town to determine why — is it Ger-

man/Dutch "blood," a Christian-inspired work ethic, or something else?

With the changes in the Soviet Union, Neudachino has arrived at a crossroads, however. Some families, especially

this task.

Because Neudachino was part of a state farm, villagers have not developed marketing skills — they simply sold their raw agriculture products to the state. About a year ago

of ready-to-assemble factory," Ben says with a laugh.

"Patience will be a key word in our vocabulary," Erna adds.

The Falks wish they spoke Russian. Because schooling in Neudachino is in Russian, many younger people feel more

comfortable speaking it than the low German they hear at home.

Another challenge facing Neudachino is how to relate to neighbouring Russian villages now that they no longer work together on the same collective farm. The Falks will look for ways in which Neudachino residents, and MCC, can relate to the larger Russian population.

The Falks are upbeat about their assignment despite the difficulties of living in an isolated village. The trip from Moscow to Neudachino to Moscow is a 25- to 30-hour train ride. Although not as cold as northern Siberia, winter lasts seven months of the year. Their homes will not be equipped with indoor bathrooms.

BERT WITVOET

The Falks' five grown children and their extended family are "pleased and excited about our plans," Erna says. Their three sons took over the farm in 1991.

"Our church family is supportive. Russia is dear to many members' hearts because of family connections; they welcome this contact with their heritage and culture," Ben says. They are members of Virgil (Ontario) Mennonite Brethren Church.

Some of Erna's relatives, a grandfather and some uncles, were among those banished to Siberia because they were ministers in the church, Erna says. It may be Siberia, but the Falks are looking for "udachino" — success and good fortune — in a town named "Neudachino."



Erna Falk points to Siberia; Ben Falk points to Canada.

younger ones, have started to emigrate to Germany; older folks want to help developing village-level businesses so that young people will want to stay. The Falks will assist them in

Neudachino residents formed a cooperative. Through the cooperative, they hope to establish some food processing enterprises.

The cooperative owns pedigree dairy cattle and could provide dairy, meat and other food products to the surrounding area if it could establish a cheese factory, butcher shops and bakeries, for example.

The Falks acquired marketing skills while managing their 200-acre family farm in Niagara-on-the-Lake for 31 years. In addition to raising apples, peaches, cherries and plums, they were part-owners of a fruit shipping company and ran a smaller business producing apple cider and peach nectar.

## Patience will be the key

The couple knows operating a business in Russia will not be as easy as it is in Canada, where communications and business infrastructure are efficient.

"We hope the people of Neudachino are not expecting us to come in with a crate-load

## International suffering tied to population growth

Bill Fledderus

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Population Crisis Committee wants to spread the idea that rapid population growth is a key factor in poverty, according to an article in *The London Free Press*.

The 27-year-old non-profit group recently ranked countries according to the amount of misery endured by their citizens.

At the top of their list are 27 countries with "extreme suffering," led by Mozambique, Somalia, Afghanistan, Haiti, Sudan and Zaire. Countries in this group grow by an average of 2.98 percent annually.

"High suffering" is experienced in 56 countries (in Africa, Asia, South and Central America). Average population growth: 2.62 percent.

"Moderate suffering" is experienced in 34 countries (in Asia and Eastern Europe). Average growth: 1.65 percent.

Canada belongs with 24 countries, led by Denmark, Belgium, the Netherlands and Switzerland, which experience "minimal suffering" and have an average growth of 0.44 percent.

The rankings are based on ten factors, including the state of economics, nutrition, health, communication and government.

## News Digest

Bill Fledderus

## Dutch set rules for euthanasia

THE HAGUE — After 20 years of heated debate, the Dutch parliament recently voted in favour of plans to allow doctors to perform euthanasia under tightly controlled conditions. According to Reuter news services, the new Dutch law still classifies euthanasia as a criminal offence (technically speaking), but in effect it virtually guarantees immunity of prosecution for doctors, as long as they follow strict guidelines.

## Mega-jumbo jet would carry 800

SEATTLE — Five companies are working together to study the feasibility of a new type of jet designed to carry between 550 and 800 passengers. Boeing Co. (U.S.), Aerospatiale (France), British Aerospace, Construcciones Aeronauticas SA (Spain) and Deutsche Aerospace (Germany) are considering forming a consortium to develop, build and sell the very large commercial transport (VLCT) aircraft.

The plane would allow major airports which are trapped by limited space (Tokyo, London, etc.) to deal with increased traffic. Production could begin as soon as the year 2000 in the U.S. and 2002 in Europe, reports the Associated Press.

## North America worse polluter than Europe

OTTAWA — The overuse of cars in North America makes us look like energy guzzlers when we compare ourselves with Europeans, says a *Toronto Star* report about a study by Ottawa energy consultant Ralph Torrie. The average urban North American consumes twice as much energy and generates 30 percent more carbon dioxide pollution than the average urban European, says the study.

But Europeans are becoming more like North Americans: car use in Europe's urban areas is rapidly increasing, and little is being done there to promote energy conservation.